

ISSUE #39
JAN./FEB. '93
\$2.95

HEAVEN'S METAL



WHITECROSS

ALSO FEATURING

LIVING SACRIFICE • SACRAMENT

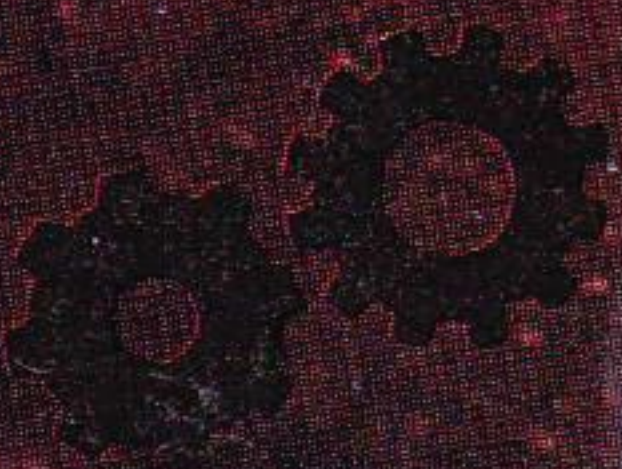


THE TIME HAS COME...

IN 1991, WHITECROSS
UNITED BELIEVERS
AROUND THE WORLD
WITH THEIR AWARD
WINNING RELEASE
"IN THE KINGDOM"



THEIR LATEST
RELEASE NOT
ONLY CHALLENGES
OUR FAITH BUT KICKS
IT INTO "HIGH GEAR"



"HIGH GEAR" the gripping new release from WHITECROSS
Featuring the debut singles "In America" and "Dancin' In Heaven"



PRODUCED BY PHIL BONANNO

Available on Compact Discs and Digitally manufactured High Quality Chrome Cassettes

DAAD

HEAVEN'S METAL

Issue Number 39
January/February '93

Editor: Doug Van Pelt
Office Manager: Charlotta Van Pelt
Contributing Editors: David Bach, Bob Beeman, Kemper Crabb, Jeff Scheetz
Contributing Writers: Chanel Bleaux, Camille Bresie, Lisa Y. De La Garza, Jeff Lott, and Spiny Norman.
Subscription Manager: Marianne Fry

Heaven's Metal mailing address:
PO Box 17367
Austin, Texas 78760-7367 USA

Main office (ship parcels here):
5055 Ft. Clark
Austin, Texas 78745
fax #: (512) 326-2401

Member Gospel Music Association

"If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:3)
"Anyone who does not love remains in death." (1 John 3:14)

METAL BLESSING! Bug your local stores to carry Heaven's Metal. Christian bookstores can call Spring Arbor @ 1-800-395-4340 and get signed up on the magazine program and start stocking HM. Mainstream bookstores (like B. Dalton) can call I.P.D. Distributors @ 619-481-5928 and request HM as well.

The **COOL TUNES** tape is still rockin' with 14 killer songs for only \$8.98! (plus \$1 postage)

Hey! How about a **Heaven's Metal**

Baseball Hat? How about at \$5 each (plus \$1 for U.S. postage/\$3 Canada and \$5 Foreign)?

There are a few **Back Issues** of HM available. They are: #19 (Shout); #20 (Sacred Warrior); #22 (Bloodgood); #23 (Vengeance); #24 (Holy Soldier); #25 (Whitecross); #26 (Magdallan); #28 (Believer); #29 (Jet Circus); #30 (One Bad Pig); #31 (X-Sinner); #32 (Crucified); #33 (Holy Soldier); #34 (Lanny Cordola); #35 (Novella); #36 (REZ); #37 (Tourniquet) and #38 (Bride). All others are sold out. Each copy is \$2.95 (Canadian/Foreign orders add \$3 per copy for Air Mail postage).

Heaven's Metal Posters are still available from some issues at \$1 each: Holy Soldier; Believer; King's X; Ray Parris (B&W); and Zion (B&W).

The **HEAVEN'S METAL T-SHIRTS** **Scream!!!** They are all X-Large black, 100% cotton shirts with the logo in a red/orange/yellow bleed. Send \$10 (plus \$1 postage/\$4 Canada & Foreign). We also have **Sweat-shirts!** They're X-Large, 100% Cotton also, and are \$20 (plus \$2 postage/\$6 Canada & Foreign).

HEAVEN'S METAL "WORSHIP AT FULL VOLUME" BUTTONS are back! They're \$1.00 (plus 50 cents postage) each (Canada/Foreign add \$1 postage). They come in red, yellow, orange, pink, blue and green.

Heaven's Metal Watches rock. (A deluxe fashion watch with the HM logo and a genuine leather strap) for \$29.95 (plus \$1 postage).

Each subscriber to Heaven's Metal has two **Prayer Partners**. We take the names directly above and below yours on the master subscription list, who have been designated to pray for you and vice-versa. Write in if you'd like their names and addresses.

If you'd be willing to make copies of a **Heaven's Metal** flyer to post around your town, write in and I'll send you a master copy.

DO YOU WANNA GROW??

Check out the **R.A.D. Discipleship** package from Sanctuary. They're free, come in one

month packets; and feature real live feedback from folks trained at Sanctuary to answer questions and give you more books and material as you progress. Write: PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach CA 90278.

NEED TO TALK? Call the Sanctuary Hotline at 1-800-548-5222. No one will take your money. Trained counselors are there strictly to help you.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO HEAVEN'S METAL ARE \$12. Canadian subscriptions are \$17. Overseas subscriptions are \$27. (These prices are for paid subscriptions only. Subscriptions that are billed will cost \$15, \$20 or \$30, respectively.)

If You Move... please let me know at least six weeks in advance! You wouldn't want to miss out on an issue...would you?

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

WHITECROSS	4
LIVING SACRIFICE	10
SACRAMENT	16
METAL TRACKS	21
EDITOR'S PICKS '92	27
RADIO CHARTS	27
WHAT TORA TORA SEZ:	28
TRADING POST	30
TOUR DATES	30
ALBUM REVIEWS	31
LICKS & TRICKS	40
THE CHRISTIAN & ART (?)	40
PASTOR BOB	42
INSIDE/OUT (?)	43
CONCERT REVIEWS	45

All contents copyright (c) 1993 Heaven's Metal Magazine, except where noted (*). Contents may not be reproduced in any manner, either whole or in part, without prior written permission.



"ROADIES" By John Telford

HEAVEN'S METAL MAGAZINE (ISSN 1066-6923) is published bi-monthly for \$12 per year by Heaven's Metal, 5055 Fort Clark Drive, Austin, TX 78745. Second-Class Postage Paid at Austin, Texas and at additional mailing office. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Heaven's Metal, PO Box 17367, Austin, TX 78760-7367.

WHITECROSS in

high gear



"So, this is what goes on in the studio!?" L-R: Mike Feighan, Rex Carroll, producer Phil Bonnano, Scott Wenzel. Pictured in front is Dez Dickerson.

One of the first trips my wife and I made after our honeymoon was to see the Whitecross/Whiteheart show in Houston, Texas. After a lengthy and energetic set, Scott Wenzel, Rex Carroll, Scott Harper and Michael Feighan all sat down backstage with us for the following interview, where these four guys candidly talked about their new album, touring, hearing God's call on their lives and, ultimately, forgiveness.

"The new album is called 'High Gear,'" starts Rex. "It's got a lot of variety." With this comment, it becomes apparent that there are mixed feelings concerning album number five. "On this album," continues Rex, "I wrote the tracks and Scotty and Dez hammered out the lyrics. I wasn't happy with the choice of a lot of the material on the last album. The first three albums we did each had one ballad; and 'IN THE KINGDOM,' our fourth album, had three ballads on it. The record company flew Scotty down to write with these Nashville/CCM songwriters... I've got to say: 'they're good songs, but I didn't enjoy it because it felt like, Okay, now we're making a CCM/Nashville record and we're gonna try and compete with these Nashville groups.' And that's not us. This new record actually has four ballads, but there were all written by

the band. We've got a slow, A.C. (adult contemporary) ballad; we've got a couple of power ballads. One is like a Scorpions, or metal-type, ballad. There is a lot of acoustic guitars on this album.

"I thought that 'I'm Askin' You Today' came out really good. It's the most A.C. thing that we've ever done. It's like one guitar and a cello player, plus the first chair oboe player from the Chicago Symphony came down and played. (There's) No drums, no guitar solos. We've taken away all our excuses. I like the song, because it has a sort of 'Eleanor Rigby' vibe to it, a semi-classical, Beatles effect. Of course, the vocals don't sound like the Beatles, but I like that song."

Knowing that Scott Wenzel is anxious to get out of the dressing room and go see the Whiteheart set, I turn to him and suggest, "Why don't we shift gears here and talk about what the Lord's taught you in the recent past?"

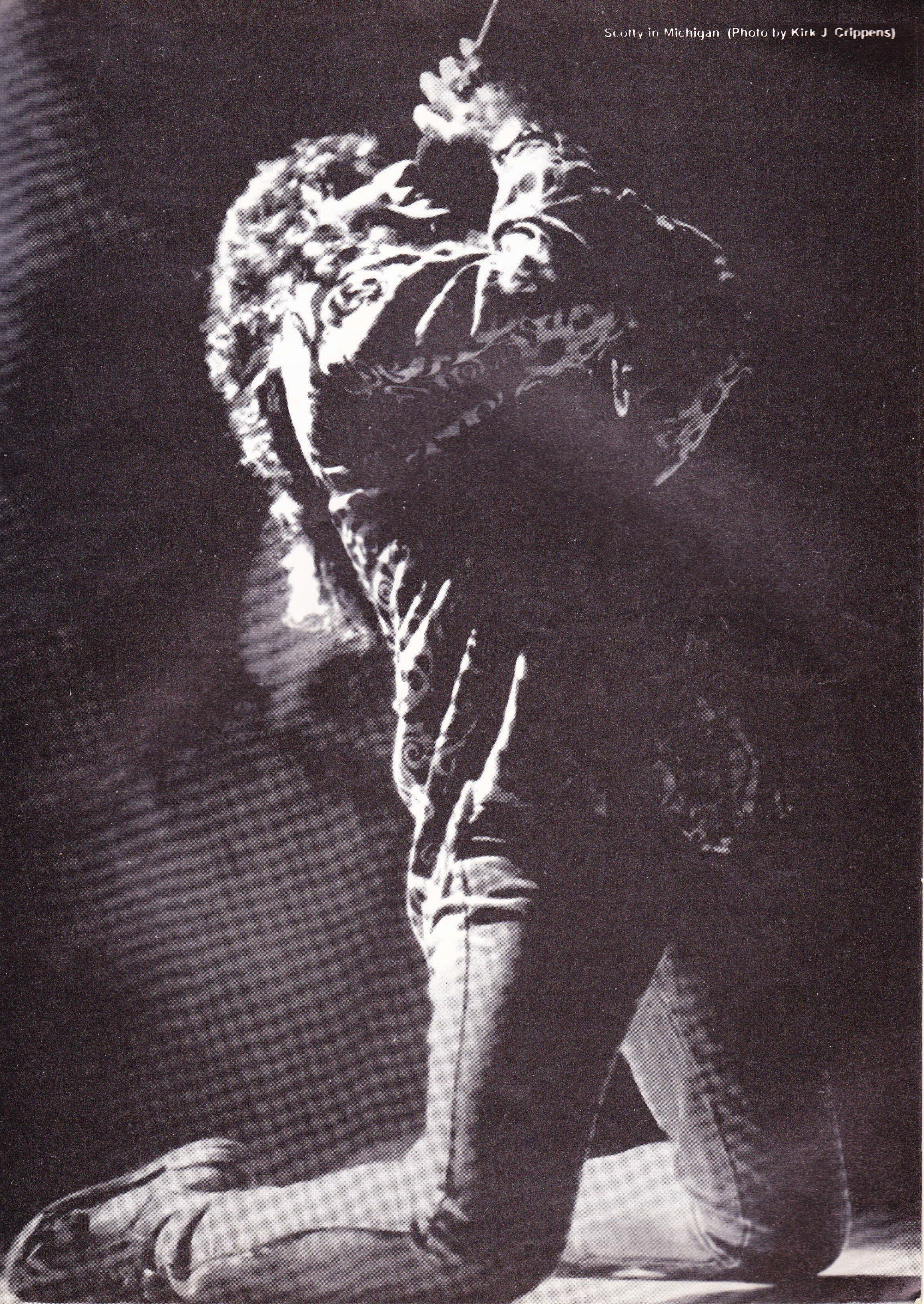
"I think the biggest thing," answers Scott, "is that God is God; and we're like dust that can be here today and gone tomorrow. God doesn't need us. He chooses to use us. He is on the throne. He has all authority and all power. The amazing fact that He wants to use anybody, let alone Whitecross, is sometimes overwhelming. The book of Isaiah

just blows me away sometimes: when you read how He created the stars and calls each one by name...

"It just overwhelms me how a God that's so great can care about every detail of our lives. Sometimes I think He's up there in Heaven and has too many big problems to deal with; that He doesn't see you each day, but the Scripture says, 'I'll never leave you nor forsake you.' That really has meant a lot to me in the last year. No matter what goes on, God is still on the throne. He just wants us to love Him more than anything else and He'll give us all our heart's desires."

****Tell me about some of the highlights from the last year.**

"Oh man," ponders Scott. "Ministry-wise, we've pretty much stayed where we've been, which is: we do the typical concert where we rock the stage and then I'll come out and share for 15 to 20 minutes. We'll see a response many nights at an altar. We'll do an altar call and they'll have counselors. I really believe God has so much more waiting, though. Sometimes I get anxious waiting for that, where people will not just come and enjoy the music, but that they'll feel God's presence so powerfully in the room





that they won't be able to deny the power of God. A person who's never heard about God maybe, or who has and is playing games with God, will no longer be able to do that because they've been in God's presence. That's what I want at a Whitecross concert. It's something I believe God is going to do. I've just gotta keep faithful and do--each day, step by step as He leads us--what we're to do. God has done a lot of good things. I just found out today that He's actually blessed us with a new vehicle. I'm excited about it. No more blue van! You'll see Whitecross in a new vehicle--at least it's new to us. It's not a van, it's an R.V.. We're gonna have it remodeled with bunks and stuff, so we'll be able to crash all night and wake up and be at the next gig."

The move of Whitecross from Pure Metal to Star Song and the directional change to include more mellow material prods me to ask about the band's current direction. In the same sensitive and direct manner that I sometimes take with my "What So and So Sez" interviews (ha!), I ask, "Are you becoming the 'darlings of the youth pastors?'" Seeing puzzled looks, I elaborate, "You know, the tool the youth pastors love to use. Are you moving into that 'Petra realm?' What's all that like?"

Much to my relief, the band answers

just be a vehicle that the church uses; that, when we come into a town, we get the youth pastors involved and get 'em excited about what we're doing, because we wanna just further what they're doing in their little community. So, I guess, if that's what that means...

"It's not like we're going to sell out to the style of music we don't want or anything. I can't sing--and have a hard time writing--songs that I don't like. And I've had some difficult times with some of the songs on this album and on the last one. We do it on every album, because I don't write every song. The music is given to me and I just make the best of it with what I've got. Some stuff I really, really like on this new album; and some stuff I'd like to trash; but it's not my decision."

"In regards to your question about youth pastors," adds Rex, "one of the things that we're doing is we've started using an organization called Inter-Linc. All that they do is try to help link up artists to churches and youth leaders, which are sometimes overwhelmed with the deluge of media which hits them all the time. They look at a record or something and go, 'Are these guys Christians or not?' They don't know. Inter-Linc has developed a trust relationship with the youth

without offense: "We wanna be used by the church," says Scott. "We don't wanna be the lone rangers trying to get people to accept the Lord; and, then, do what with 'em? We need the church in order to accomplish what we want, and that is for people to first be introduced to Christ at our concerts or just challenged at our concerts; but they need to get into church in order to grow. Everyone knows that. We use youth pastors and churches to disciple people that we come into contact with.

"We're like traveling evangelists and we can't do it all. There's a lot of people that would love to talk all night long to the band after the concert; you know, who would like to take us home: 'Here, help me with all my problems.' But that's what the church is for, really. So, we wanna

leaders. They don't sign up every Christian artist that comes along. They've started working with us this year. Between that and the youth nights that we've been doing for a year now, we're maintaining and increasing our commitment to be available to the church as a resource."

****So, how do you wrestle with the problem of dealing with somebody late night after a show who's got a more important problem--maybe larger than you can fix in 15 minutes?**

"Really, there's nothing that I can do anyway," answers Scott, "you know that. 'I just bring 'em to God. If there is something we can pray about, we definitely pray about it right there and then and give it to God; but a lot of times people need more than a prayer. They need counseling that's really gonna give them steps to take to solve the problem. That's why we have counselors after the concert. I invite anyone at a Whitecross concert to come and meet with the counselors in a room. 'It's not like joining a club or something; we're here to answer questions.' I always make that clear at the end of the concert. 'We're here for you. If you've got any questions about what you've heard tonight, come and talk to us. We're here for you.' And a lot of people do; with real heavy needs. It's unbelievable sometimes, but God is the Author and Finisher of our faith and He has a master plan for all of our lives, and we just run to Him. He's our Refuge. He's our shield.

"I meet with Counselors and youth pastors before a show and tell them what to expect and what we want out of them--what we expect out of them as far as follow-up and how important it is. My pastor tells me, 'You introduce somebody to God, but so what? They need follow-up.' We have cards that the kids fill out with their names and phone number and then the counselor signs their name and phone number and we trade numbers; so to the counselor I tell, 'Call the youth that you counseled tonight within 24 hours. Encourage 'em and pray with 'em.'

"So many times at a concert you get this big high. 'Oh yeah, we were at a concert. I feel so great!' Then they go to work or school the next day and then it's like, 'Argh! burn, crash to the bottom again.' I know, I did the same thing. I did it worse when I was in high school. I'd get this big spiritual rush or high from a service in church or a camp meeting and all of sudden I'd get back with my friends and crash dive in about a week. It's like, 'Whoa! Where did God go?' God never went anywhere. I just needed to get back and plug in with Him, you know? It's important that young people have that to go to and it's important for the church to understand their responsibility with that."



"Drag! I thought we were getting Dove Bars!" (L-R: Mike, Rex, Scott & Scott)

******In the last year you've been on the cover of CCM, you've been on two videos, etc. How does all of that feel?

"I'm kind of excited about it, because all that attention--the Dove Award, the magazine--it says to me that they've given us their stamp of approval. That should say to many people, 'Let's check these guys out. Let's give these guys a chance. Let's bring 'em into town and do a concert with Whitecross.' Anyone who does sees by the end of the night: 'These guys are for real about what they believe. They're not here to make money and skip town. They really care about the kids' souls and eternity.'"

******So, Mike, how has it been in the last year and a half, and what do you like best about it?

"All the girls," Mike replies (and then bursts into laughter).

"All the curls, did you say?" jests Scott.

"When I first joined the band," continues Mike, "I was kind of in awe: being at G.M.A., being in your magazine and CCM. I was like, 'Oh my gosh, I can't believe this is happening!'"

"Now all he does is lie about all the girls," interrupts Rex.

"Now," goes Mike, "lately it's

been really cool, because God has really shown me, 'Hey, Michael, I've put you here and you're a tool now.' That's a big focus for me right now--just trying to do my best. I'm being able to be used by God to help people that might not know about God, just trying to do something that I can do that might help somebody that could relate to me. I never try to lose that or get into the 'rock poser mode' or something, and forget about ministry."

Turning to the other newcomer, I ask Scott Harper, "How did you enter into this band?"

"The Dove Award...the magazine...all the attention says to me that they've given us their stamp of approval."

"I'm from Dallas, Texas," answers Scott, "and I was in a local Christian band called Angelix. Blanch Pall brought us down to Austin and we opened up for Whitecross. I

always kind of dreamed about being in a band that would travel and really be into the ministry, like Whitecross, so I plugged in my guitar to do what I could do and caught Rex's attention. He got my phone number and we kind of kept in touch. Whitecross came to Dallas and I talked to them there. Then, when Butch (Dillan) left, he gave me a call to see if I was interested in auditioning. I came up in about a month and auditioned and I made it. I had to be back and move to Chicago a week later, and then we went to Australia the next week. So, it's pretty weird what God can do."

******How did you make such a monumental decision that quick?

"Um, God had been doing personal things in my life. I had quit the band that I was in. I felt that God didn't want me in it and He wanted to do things in my life besides music--like music had become such a priority. He brought me to the point where I could just lay it down. I didn't play for a while. I said, 'Okay, God. Whatever You want. If You want me to be a trash collector, I'll do it for You. I want to be the best at it I can be.' He gave me the okay to play, so I played."

"He began really working in my life with accountability and my thought life and everything that a Christian should be--not just the outward; but the inward man. So, when the call came, I knew it was from God. I

guess, at first, I hoped it was from God, because it was perfect timing. It seemed like it would've been. Then, as the month waiting for the audition went by, He slowly began to confirm things: 'This is going to happen. This is My will for you.' So, when Rex came in, threw me a t-shirt and said, 'Congratulations,' there wasn't any prayer needed, because it's like I'd already gotten the okay from God and I was just waiting for it to happen. It's always scary, because, you're like, 'Well, what if I was wrong? What if it's not going to happen?' Then I guess I'd still work at U.P.S. or whatever God wants. He's got the best for us, no matter what."

****How did you know that God wanted you to be a music minister?**

"For me, I was never really interested in music until I got saved," says Scott. "I got saved and somebody asked me to join their band. I didn't play anything, but I always wanted to play piano and so they said, 'We'll get a piano and you can be in our band,' so I did. It just came really easy to me. It was just like a hobby at first. Then I picked up the bass guitar and it became really easy too, so I just kept playing and playing. As time went by, I knew I was developing a skill that I could use."

"Before I ever heard about God I had no idea of Who He was. I had no idea that Jesus Christ died for me, so when someone finally told me, I was like, 'Why didn't someone tell me sooner? I've got friends who need this too--and I need it.' I wanted to tell people. Being in the bands that I was in, it was like, 'Well, you can use music too.' I had a peace about that and He just continually drew me in that direction to use my gift for Him in whatever way I could."

"I wanted to do something different," says Michael. "I had like a dream... I don't know if you'd call it a vision or what, but I saw this image and I wanted to become one of the best drummers I could be. You know, not one of the norm, but just be really good--to where people in the secular world might go, 'Yeah, that guy's really good,' and then to be able to say, 'Yeah, I'm a Christian too.' It's like Dean Castronova of Bad English. He's a Christian. I think it's really cool when guys that have worked real hard on their talents and then they still give glory to God through it. I just saw myself doing that. I'm not trying to say I'm the best. I know I'm not. I'm far from it. I just felt God calling me to do it, you know. I felt I just really wanted to be the best I could be and just give God glory through that somehow."

****How are you handling this intense schedule of touring?**

"These guys are single," says Rex

(as he points out Scott and Michael). "I guess if I was a single boy, I'd just want to be on the road forever, too. I enjoy being on the road too. It really is a challenge. Next year we're committed to this fall tour; we're committing to a spring tour and after that I'm going to have to take about three months off. I know that's gonna kill the band. We cannot sustain ourselves financially, and everybody will have to get into a different mode for a while, but we'll have to. I need the break."

"We got to parts on the album, even working on certain guitar parts and I wasn't even enjoying that. As soon as that happened, I said, 'Wait a minute! Something is wrong,' because I love to make records. To me, that's the highest artistic fulfillment: making a record that works--and we haven't made one yet that works, but we'll keep trying. When even making records becomes work to me, then I feel like I need to step back and get a handle on it; just get away from it for a little bit. So, I'll try and do that next year. I'm sure Scotty can use a break too, because he's got a wife and kids. But, who knows, maybe you guys will find some woman and you might get married."

"When we see other artists doing things that we don't like--instead of praying for 'em--we love to slam into 'em."

****What's God been telling you lately? What have you learned in the last year or so?**

"Well," Rex muses, "on a personal level, God's really enforced in my life that His grace is overwhelming and how much we don't deserve it--and that's why it's grace. He just pours it out. All of us and the two or three thousand people in this room (arena) deserve to die now--immediately--no more. It's by grace alone that we live one more hour. He's patient, waiting for people to repent. I know in my own life that it would be possible to have a fabulous ministry for four years and then, at

the end, you could still throw it all away if you chose to do so. His grace is just awesome. I don't want to lose that delicate, precious knowledge and I don't want it ever to become stale to me."

"The biggest thing, as far as a message, that He's given me that is coming out in the band as I look around church is: Boy, we love a good, juicy gossip story. We love it when a brother falls. We love to stick the knife in and we love to twist it and we love to see the blood come out. That's what I call in the church our 'church policy of how we eat our young.' When we see other groups or artists doing things that we don't like--instead of praying for 'em--we just love to slam into 'em."

"Two words that I'd like to suggest is: Number one, forgiveness; and number two is reconciliation. Reconciliation cannot happen unless I'm the first guy to stand up and say, 'You know, I was wrong in that attitude,' or 'I see how I've been wrong,' and be the first person to go to someone else and ask forgiveness. You can't do that without letting go of your pride; and you can't let go of your pride unless you realize the position that you're in. Unless God is impressing on you His grace and you really, truly realize your own true position before God, then it becomes impossible to go to someone else and say, 'I'm sorry for that offense,' or, when another brother comes to us, for us to be able to put our pride and our ego down."

"Instead of saying, 'Ha! Now I've got ya under my thumb where I want ya. Ya see? I've been praying all this time for God to show you how wrong you are.' We pray that a lot, right? Every one of us. We say, 'Hmmm. God, change him. Change that person, Lord. Let me pull that speck out of your eye, there, brother.' We just need to get the plank out of our own eye. And when another brother comes to us, we need to also have the humility to say, 'Okay, you're forgiven,' and all of the offense that's committed against us personally--to let it go. That's reconciliation."

"How long have all of us offended God? We murdered His Son! Each one of us is guilty of that. Some of us were raised in Christian homes and received Christ at an early age, and some of us went, like Scott was saying, for 14 years in his own life...14 years of spitting on God! And we get all bent out of shape if a brother sins against us and it takes him a week to apologize for it! We get all bent out of shape and we get into our self-righteous mode. So, that's really a big thing that God has shown me. The bottom line of it all is how precious the grace is and how much we really don't deserve it; but He extends that to us--the possibility to have the slate wiped clean. We take that for granted. God is holy. He doesn't need us, but He offers us that clean slate. That's just really awesome. That's the big thing in my life, I'd say, that what God is working, teaching me and showing me." **HM**



LIVING SACRIFICE NONEXISTENT

AVAILABLE ON **REX** CASSETTES AND COMPACT DISCS

ALSO NOW
AVAILABLE



SACRAMENTO
Haunts of Violence

*Emerging from the shadows
of a dark October day comes
a new offering of mind
shattering metal that will
penetrate the deepest
crevices of your soul*

SCRAPE UP THE DIRT ON THE LATEST RELEASES BEFORE THEY HIT THE STREET!
WRITE TO GET ON THE REX MAILING LIST > PO BOX 25269 NASHVILLE TN 37202

Being a Living Sacrifice



Being original in the studio with Doug Mann

Just before the election in November I had the privilege of stirring Living Sacrifice bassist and lead vocalist D.J. from deep sleep for the following "post dream" interview. So, wipe the sleep from your eyes and read up on Living Sacrifice's "NONEXISTENT" new album, the band's summer tour, and D.J.'s own governor and new president--Bill Clinton.

THE BEGINNING

Like many bands, Living Sacrifice had its humble beginnings--they just didn't stay in obscurity and "pay the dues" for very long. "We formed in the fall of '89," explains D.J. "It was just me, Lance (Garvin), Bruce (Fitzhugh) and Jason (Truby) gettin' together with a desire to play a style of music and to reach people. I guess that was about three years ago now. We played our first show about three months after we got together and, a couple months after that, we went into a local studio here and did our first home demo. I'd been talking with Kurt Bachman with Believer for a while and he suggested we go into a studio and record a demo, because he wanted to hear it. So, that's one of the reasons why we did that. I sent it to him and he was really into it and said he wanted to pass it onto Doug (Mann) of R.E.X. and see if he was interested in signing us. From then on, by passing it on to Doug, eventually R.E.X. signed us."

Quite a quick start for a band that

was so young that the parents of a few members had to sign the recording contract for 'em. Before Living Sacrifice was a band, each member grew up with "all the traditional heavy influences of Black Sabbath, Aerosmith and Led Zeppelin," explains D.J., who also listed early Motley Crue, Ratt and Van Halen as early influences when they were younger, moving on to much heavier stuff like Metallica, Megadeth and Slayer later on. "Black Sabbath was a big influence, just being heavy and dark. They were about the most commercially unappealing band during their time. They were really kind of gloomy. I guess it was kind of like a morbid attraction there..."

"Let's do something original. Let's sound like ourselves."

Speaking of morbid, there's a definite direction in vocal style taken on this new Living Sacrifice album. D.J. compares the

jump taken from this album to the jump from the band's demo to its debut album: "It kind of progressed. I was really, really green when we did the vocals for the first album. I was not generally aware of what I wanted and how I wanted to execute the words and everything. It was really a rush job and I recorded those vocals in one day.

"Musically, we had only been together a little over a year before we went into the studio for that album. Since that time, we've been able to incorporate a lot more of our influences and get our direction focused on what types of sound we wanted. On our last album everybody kept saying we sounded like a certain band, and that eventually got on our nerves. We said to each other, 'Let's do something original. Let's try to sound like ourselves.' Doing our five week tour just prior to entering the studio again really helped me with my vocals. Now we are able to really have a direction of where we want to go. We're so much more happy with this project than we were with the first one. Everything going into this album was better. R.E.X. has really been behind this project, which has helped a lot."

When asked if there was a "secret" to the deathly/grinding vocal style, D.J. didn't know of any. He attributes the fact that it doesn't hurt his vocal chords to the Lord. "I remember one night prior to our first show," he says. "I was having some problems with my voice and was kind of nervous. My throat felt like it was about to give up or something, and I just prayed to the Lord. I said, 'Lord, just give me my voice and let me be able to use it for Your glory. I don't want to use it for my benefit at all. I just want to use it so that people can hear Your Word.' From then on it's been real flexible. I never have any problems with it at all or really get hoarse after we do a show. It's not like I have any special exercise that I do or anything. I just pray to the Lord about it. I guess that's my only suggestion for other vocalists."

When asked for advice on the band's musical tightness, D.J. had a lot to say for "being diligent towards practice. When we practice, it'll be about five times a week. We are accountable to each other. We don't let anybody slack up. If somebody messes up on a part, we'll just stop and start all over and get it until we're really tight on something. That way everybody is really paying attention and making sure they get their part down." Citing this as a common goal between all four members, D.J. says band practice is really comfortable. "The Lord's blessed us with a master bedroom of this house to practice in, so



we have all the room and air conditioning. We just kick back and jam whenever we want. It's really a blessing."

THE TOUR

Last summer Living Sacrifice set out on an ambitious tour that featured Betrayal as a co-headliner. Unfortunately, Betrayal had to bow out and their replacement, The Crucified, had to pass as well. "Barring those two setbacks," admits D.J., "the tour was really wonderful. I was kind of concerned prior to going out, because I wasn't able to hear too many good road stories," he laughs, "as far as going out and coming back okay financially and everything else."

"A lot of prayer and preparation went into this tour and Dave Kindervater, from This Prophecy Productions, took care of all the details for us. Together we started planning this back in February of '92. So, all the prayer and details and preparation that went into it really paid off. Everything went smooth. There was a lot of people encouraged: a lot of brothers and sisters in the Lord were blessed by us playing; and they provided a lot of encouragement for us. There were countless kids that were definitely receiving the seed that we were casting out. We saw a lot of hunger. People were surprisingly open to what we were saying. The Lord was just really with us and He had His hand on us. Several kids got saved and there were countless others that each one of us witnessed to personally."

"The Lord kept our van in really good shape. We had this little engine in this '83 Astro van and a U-Haul trailer and we were traveling around up in the East Coast and New England states and everything. Praise the Lord, we didn't break down once in the total time we were out. As far as our financial needs were concerned: He totally met each one of those. We actually came home and made money; which, in these times, is definitely a testimony."

"We met so many wonderful people. I can't wait to do it again. We played more dates on this tour than we had up until that point--in our entire existence as a band!"

Being in the music business for two years and coming off a small tour like that is guaranteed to teach a young musician a few lessons. Living Sacrifice is no exception, and D.J. cites what is probably the first major lesson learned by all in this scene: patience. "In this last year I've really learned a lot about being patient and waiting on the Lord. Right when our first album came out, I was all excited and just wanted to do this and that with the album and band and everything. I just realized that you've got to sit back and let the Lord do with your ministry what He wants and take it in the direction He wants to. You might have some really good ideas on where you think He ought to go, but if you just sit back

and let the Lord handle it, you know, He's gonna really bless it and you're gonna be totally in His will. Any advice I would give would be: 'To be patient and wait on the Lord and not get ahead of the Lord and what He has for you.'"

THE MOSH PIT

Those of you who witnessed Living Sacrifice's set at Cornerstone '92 may have recognized Pastor Bob Beeman's description of a Christian concert in his column (Issue #37) as the one you saw. D.J. describes his perspective: "That was really weird. While we were playing, one of our roadies came up and told us that somebody was punching some people out in the crowd. It was in the middle of a song, so I couldn't stop right then. When we did stop at the end of the song, our stage manager came up and took over the mike and said there was somebody out there with a knife; so they were gonna go look for 'em or something. He said, 'Just give me two minutes,' so we were just hanging out up there. I'm thinking, 'Lord, this is a trip! What do I do?'"

**"If the people
cannot
understand what
I'm saying, at
least the lyrics
are written out."**

"Jim Chaffin of The Crucified walks up to me and goes, 'Hey man, why don't you pray?' It was like a lightbulb going off in my head: 'Okay, cool!' I walked up to the microphone and asked the audience to join me in prayer, because we really needed to bind that spirit of violence from what was going on. It was really cool. We all prayed and everything; and it went smoothly after that. I could sense something different from then on out. It was totally the angels battling the demons. There was definitely peace and joy after that moment. It was a lot more fun after that."

If that wasn't enough for these guys, technical difficulties arose next. "Smoke started coming up out of Jason's amp. He's got a Mesa Boogie Mark IV head, which has a lot of tubes in it, and he must've blown three or four of 'em. We had planned the night before for Greg Minier of The Crucified to come out

and jam with us during a song, since The Crucified invited Bruce and Jason to jam during their song 'Mindbender' the night before, so Greg had his gear right there ready to go and Jason used it. If it hadn't been for that, we'd have done the show with only one guitar player from then on."

"In the last song, 'Second Death,' Jason broke one of his strings, so he just put his guitar down, threw water into the crowd and stage dived. It was kind of funny on tour, because it happened again one night during the same song. It's like he's doing it on purpose so he can quit playing and stage dive."

THE NEW ALBUM

You've seen the wild ads promoting its existence; now "NONEXISTENT" is finally out in the stores. With some aggressive promotion into the metal mainstream via ads in magazines like Metal Maniacs and Sounds of Death, Living Sacrifice is bound to get some notoriety for its hefty music. "It is definitely a lot heavier than our first one," D.J. says proudly. "I love the intro, which was done by Scott Albert of Circle of Dust. He did the outro as well. He did a great job. It's really heavy sounding."

"The first song, called 'Enthroned,' is basically just a praise and worship song. It's totally giving glory to the Lord. I hadn't seen songs in death metal or thrash that were just strictly praising the Lord. I thought that would be cool. So, even if the people cannot understand what I'm saying, at least the lyrics are written out," he laughs. "They can get blessed by the lyrics written. I really am blessed by 'em."

"The title NONEXISTENT comes from Hebrews 8:12, which says, 'God will forgive us of our wickedness and remember our sins no more.' Therefore, it's just like a heavy way of saying 'our sins are non-existent.' So, that is actually where we get the title of the song. That song was conceived and written while we were on tour. I wrote it on my birthday, actually."

"There's another song on there called 'Chemical Straightjacket,' which is an anti-drug song. In the song it gives an example of how twisted and distorted reality becomes (for users). From that point on, the lyrics basically say, 'Don't do drugs!' It basically deals with drugs like heroin and coke and stuff like that. I've had a few friends and have seen a few things that have influenced me about the abuse of heroin and how it really destroys people's lives. There's a little kind of 'in memory' thing down at the bottom of the lyrics for people that have done that, and a certain person who died from its influence and everything."

"There's also a song on there that's called 'Atonement,' which is basically about the Roman road to salvation, which I'm sure



L-R: Jason, Lance, D.J. and Bruce

you're familiar with--all the certain scriptures in Romans that you can use to lead somebody to the Lord. 'Atonement' is basically all those scriptures put together in a song. I thought that there's a lot of people that might hear our music or be into what we're about and might not know how to actually come to the Lord. There's not gonna be a Christian, you know, with everybody that picks up our album. They don't automatically get their own Christian to lead 'em to the Lord. Therefore, I thought, 'Well, certainly they'll be checking out the lyrics and everything, so this song will definitely be able to lead 'em to the Lord and they'll understand where we're coming from in this song. That's something that I've been really wanting to do for a while now--be able to have something like that for people to say, 'This song brought me to the Lord,' you know? That would be totally cool.

"There's one song called 'Distorted,' which is about how a lot of times in the death metal scene all these bands are satanic and real dark and talk about mutilating corpses and things like that. It's basically about how they distort reality so much. They might not even believe what they're saying, be it satanic or cutting up a body or whatever, but it actually doesn't matter whether they really believe it or not.

"In Proverbs 18 it says that a man's life and death is in his tongue. Therefore, whatever you speak, you have. If you speak life, you'll have life. If you speak death, you'll have death. Even if the people that write these words and are giving it to these kids, who are

saying it back and singing along or whatever, even if they don't really believe what they say, it's gonna affect their life. The chorus of the song says, 'Confessions of words, life or death is heard, not demanding any believe, consequence is received.' That was really based on Proverbs 18.

"There's a song called, 'Without Distinction,' which refers to Hebrews, where Paul was talking about how there's no difference between Jew and Gentile and the comparison in races as far as the Lord was concerned. During these times there's a lot of real conflicts between races. This song is definitely approaching it in a spiritual aspect, as far as we should treat each other without distinction. There's really no difference. God created us all."

The chorus goes, "Exposed in the assembly/not concealed by deception/ Viewing all of humanity/ without distinction." D.J. drew from his own experience at his church for inspiration here: "I get a great joy going to my church, where there's an equal number of African Americans as there are white caucasians (in assembly). If we can get together in a spiritual aspect and a spiritual setting, we can really come together, as far as humans, like the Lord wants us to. It's not really happening. There's been so many programs that the government's tried to set up or whatever and it's still not working. It's totally a spiritual battle between the different cultures and races; and that's the only way that we're really gonna be able to overcome it successfully."

BILL CLINTON

Being from the capitol city of Little Rock, Arkansas, D.J. and company have a unique perspective on the new president, which D.J. was more than happy to share.

"Alright!" he laughed (when given the opportunity to comment on this). "Actually, I don't know if too many people know this--It seems like a lot of people have forgotten--the only reason that Bill Clinton is actually governor right now is because of a promise he made. In 1990 he was going up against another well-liked Arkansasan and it was a pretty tight race. Everybody had always said, 'he wants to go to Washington,' whether it be a senator or a president or vice president. Everybody's always said that he was just using his position as kind of a stepping stone type thing. So, that question came up often, 'Are you gonna seek a higher office if we elect you governor?' He promised, 'If you elect me governor, I will not seek any other higher office while I'm in term serving as your governor.' What frustrates me a lot is: He made a promise. For him to really go back on his word like that and for the media and press to just overlook that is amazing. I'm surprised that a lot of reporters haven't jumped on that.

"As far as his being governor, he says he's for civil rights; well, Arkansas is one of only two states that doesn't have any civil rights laws. We have no civil rights bill whatsoever. He says one thing, but I don't see his actions.

Heaven's Metal Hotline

Get the latest news fast!

**Weekly news, Tour Dates, and Music Samples
Updated every Monday afternoon by
Heaven's Metal Editor Doug Van Pelt**

1-900-990-0085 ext. 107

\$2 per minute with 5-minute max limit

Heaven's Metal, Austin, Texas
Under 18 get your parent's permission
touch-tone required

**Offering quality, honest coverage of
progressive Christian music --
metal, rock, industrial, alternative,
and more! Look for features on
Guardian and Die Happy soon. . .**

NOTEBORED MAGAZINE

- ☐ Sign me up for a one-year subscription (6 issues) to **Notebored**. Enclosed is \$8.00 (\$15.00 to Canada; \$30.00 overseas, U.S. funds only).
- ☐ Sign me up and bill me with my first issue.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Send to **Notebored** Subscriptions, P.O. Box 238, Argyle, PA 19310-0238
or call (215) 593-7176 and be billed with your first issue!

"He says he's standing up for a certain issue, but every time he's been pushed by people that have come against him, he's backed down. He's never been like totally solid and been able to really stand up the way that I think somebody should. It seems like he's there to please the people that will benefit him in the long run. It's paid off, I mean, look where he is now.

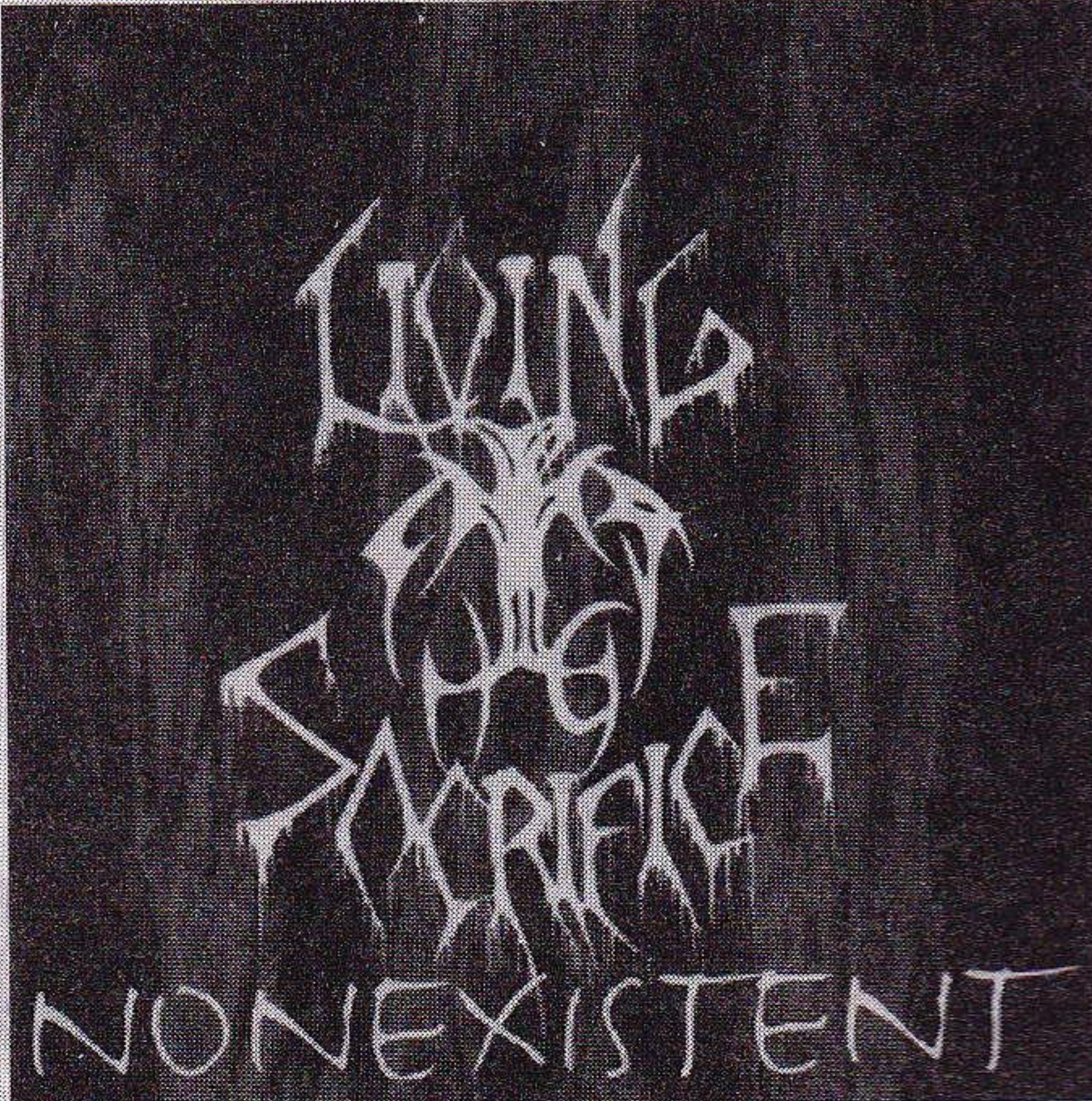
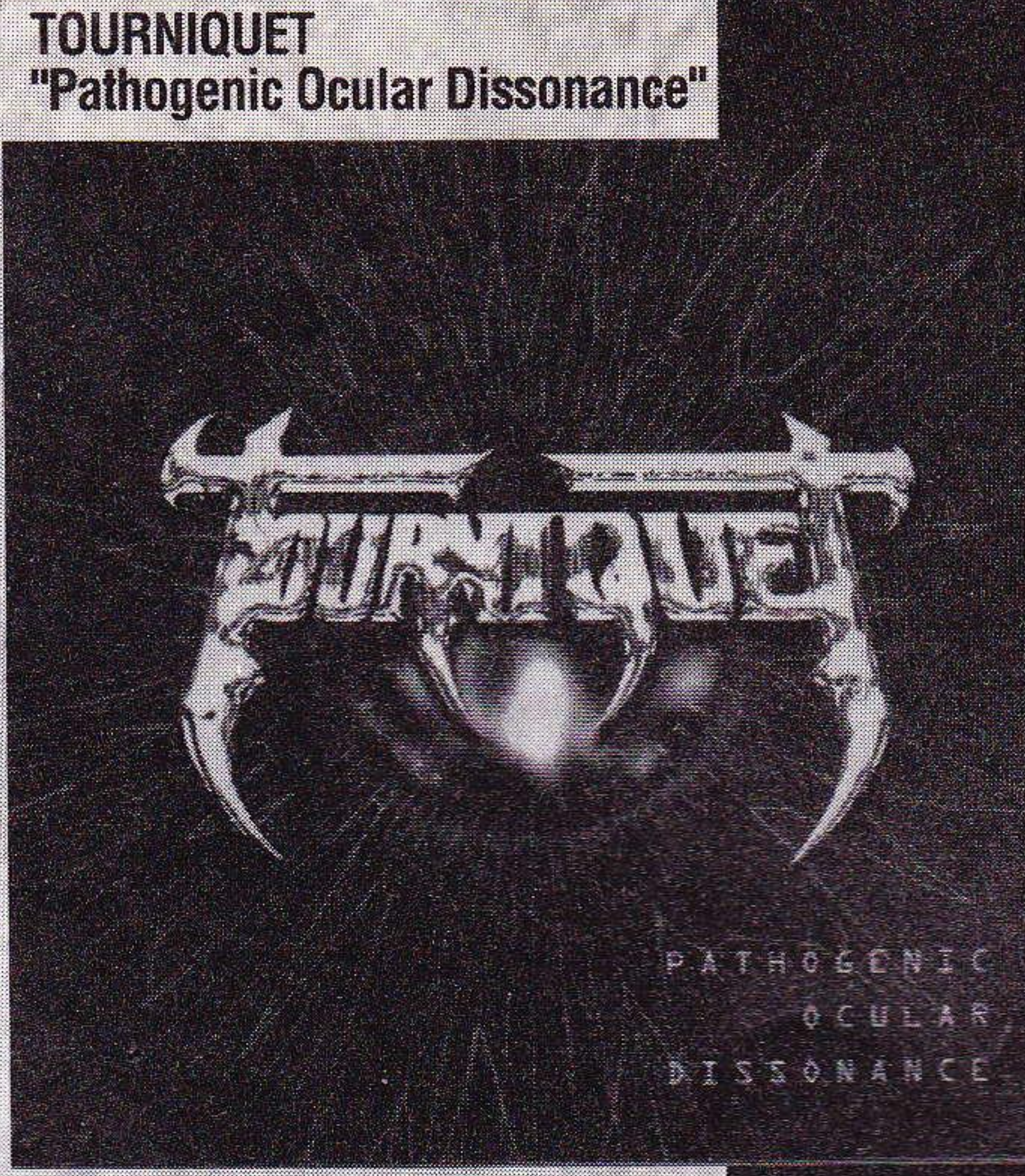
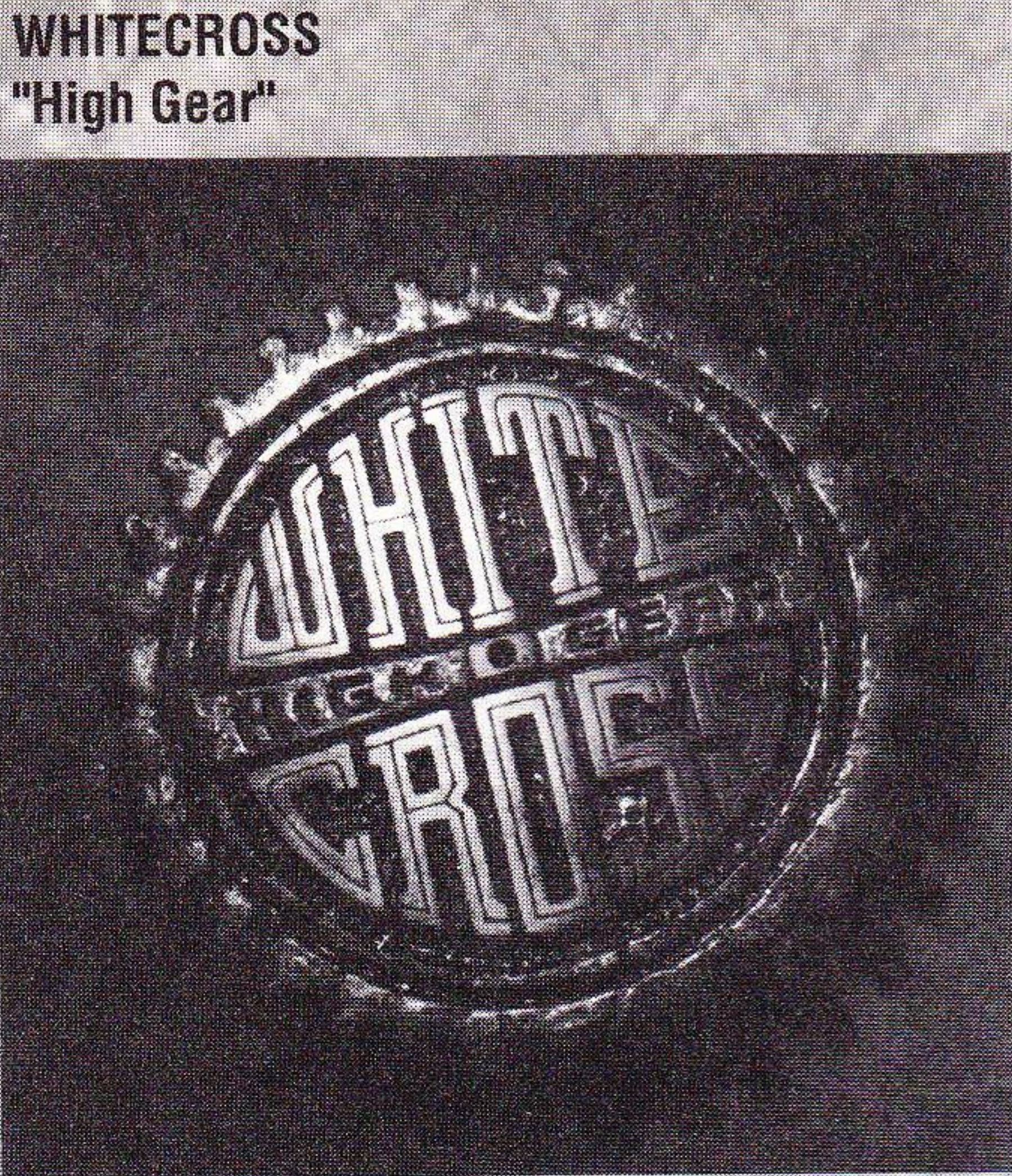
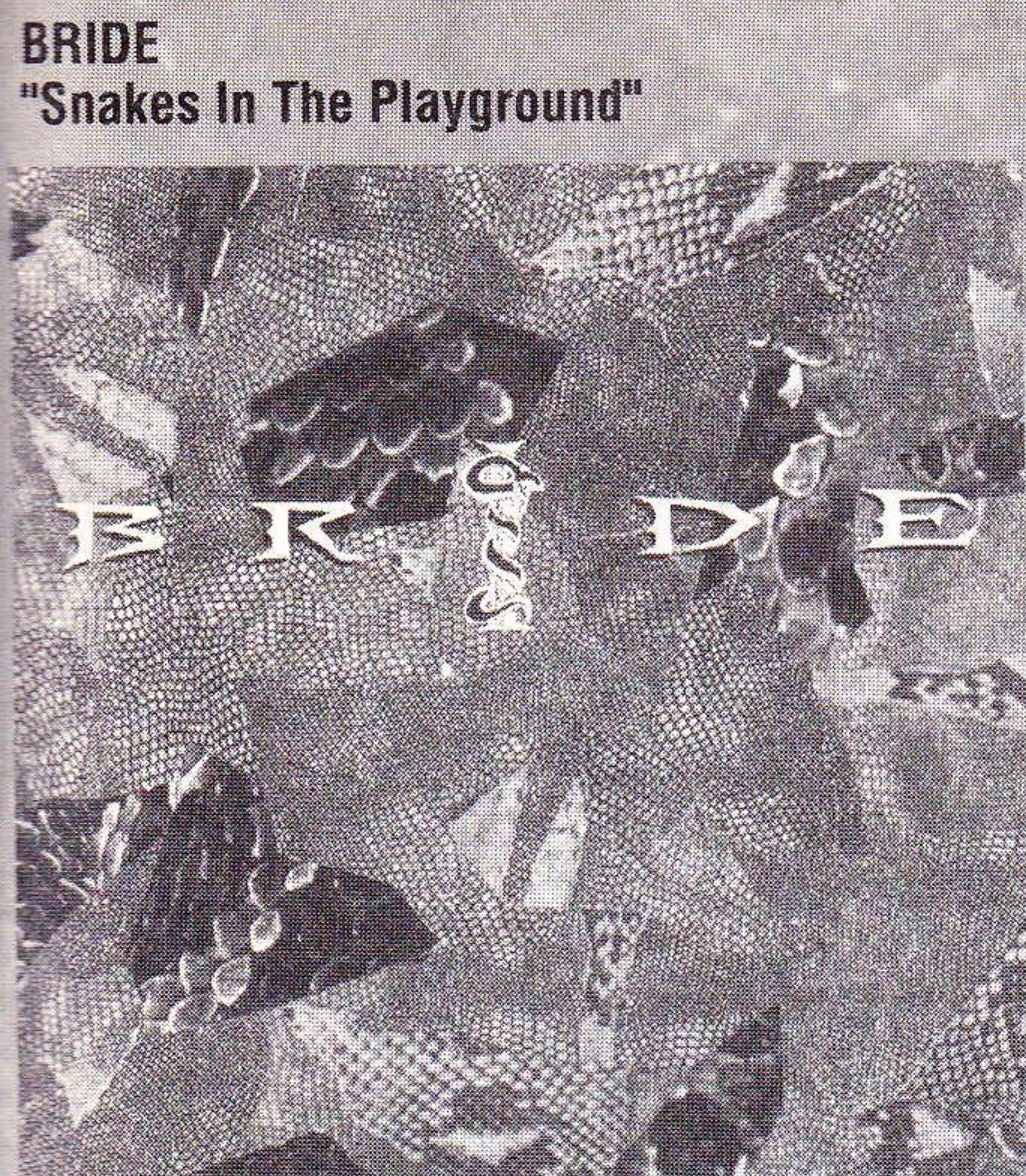
"He talked about Bush having his 12 years, but Bush has only had four years in office technically. I'm not saying that everything that Bush and Reagan did was great, but I'm just comparing the two. Bill Clinton has had 12 years as governor of Arkansas; and where has he put us? We are on the bottom end of all the statistics, basically. We're not like the big prospering state that you would think somebody who is trying to take control over the United States would build. He's done some good things here--it's not like he's just twiddled his thumbs or anything--but he's had 12 years and he hasn't done an amazing job. We're still basically where we were 12 years ago.

"I just really don't agree with a lot of his stands on a lot of issues. I'm sure you know which ones those are. I wouldn't vote for him, just for being under his authority as governor. I hope that a lot of people really agree with me. In the past couple of months I've been asked that question a lot: 'What's Bill Clinton like?' All I can say is, 'Don't vote for him.' Even barring the issues that I really am opposed to that he stands for; if it was just on him being able to govern the state, I don't think he should be president. He flip-flops and doesn't really stand what he says he's gonna stand for. I don't know. Just from that level, I wouldn't vote for him at all."

Let's hope that Bill Clinton does a better job running this country than he's done in Arkansas; and let's hope that D.J. gets a job as a political analyst/commentator on a network news station soon. In parting, D.J. was appreciative of the interview opportunity and reminiscent of his first encounter with Heaven's Metal. "It's really wild here a few years later to be doing an interview about an album we just did. I can remember the first issue of Heaven's Metal that I got. It was like a little bitty newsletter. I think it was yellow and had Bloodgood on the cover. I was just so amazed. It was definitely a blessing and encouragement, and it helped me in the Lord, as far as getting established and having something to go to away from the secular stuff that had a negative influence on me. You guys were there and had a positive effect and were able to bless me."

Those who want to encourage and bless Living Sacrifice can write: P.O. Box 45892, Little Rock, AR 72214. "We really enjoy hearing from everybody out there." HM

COOL MUSIC GIFTS



BRIDE
"Snakes In The Playground"

WHITECROSS
"High Gear"

TOURNIQUET
"Pathogenic Ocular Dissonance"

SACRAMENT
"Haunts Of Violence"

LIVING SACRIFICE
"Nonexistant"

UNDER MIDNIGHT
"Under Midnight"

THE CRUCIFIED MERCHANDISE

- CRUCIFIED LOGO STICKER: \$2.00 ea.
- CRUCIFIED LOGO HATS!: \$15.00 ea. BLACK OR WHITE
- CRUCIFIED T-SHIRTS: \$15.00 ea. L-XL Sizes Sinners Saved By Grace, Hateworld

PRECIOUS DEATH
OUR STINKIN' T-SHIRTS
\$15.00 L, XL

"WE NEED JESUS"
T-SHIRTS
\$15.00 L, XL

SPECIAL PRICE CASSETTES & COMPACT DISCS:

\$8.98 CASSETTE \$11.98 COMPACT DISC

TITLES IN STOCK THIS ISSUE:

APPLEHEAD "Meaning", THE BRAVE "Battle Cries", THE CRUCIFIED "Pillars of Humanity"
CRYSTAVOX "The Bottom Line", DELIVERANCE "Stay Of Execution",
DIE HAPPY, JOSHUA "Surrender", LUST CONTROL "We Are Not Ashamed"

UNDERGROUND FEATURE: PRECIOUS DEATH & SCAPEGOAT: \$8.00 Cassettes Each

SAVE YOUR MAGAZINE: PHOTOCOPY THIS FORM

CMG MAIL ORDER
MAKE CHECKS OR
MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO CMG

SEND TO:
CMG MAIL ORDER
P.O. BOX 43405
AUSTIN, TX 78745-9998

OFFICIAL

**HEAVEN'S
METAL**

MAIL ORDER

QTY.	ARTIST/GROUP	TITLE/ITEM	FORMAT/COLOR	PRICE
TOTAL				
8% (TX RES.)				
SHIPPING 10% U.S./25% FOREIGN				
GRAND TOTAL:				

TEXAS RES. 8% SALES TAX SHIPPING PRICES. ALL U.S. ORDERS AD 10% TO TOTAL ORDER, FOREIGN ORDERS MUST BE PAYABLE IN U.S. BANK AND DOLLARS PLUS AD 25% TO COVER POSTAGE. ALLOW 4-8 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

Inside Sacrament



L-R: Mike DiDonato, Erik Ney, Paul Graham, Rob Wolfe

The long wait is finally over for both the members and fans of Sacrament. Album number two, "HAUNTS OF VIOLENCE," is now out! Drummer Paul Graham and vocalist Rob Wolfe took some time on the phone to update Heaven's Metal with the band, the new album and the uncertain future.

Unlike the first album, which was recorded on home turf in Pennsylvania, "HAUNTS..." was recorded in the Sonic Temple near the windy city of Chicago. Originally scheduled to begin recording in February, the band found out it must wait several (nine, to be exact) months before they could go in (Kind of like waiting to have a baby, eh?). Although quite a disappointment and setback, the time was used wisely to tighten up and hone in the killer sound that they finally did achieve once inside the former Masonic lodge turned Christian recording studio/record company office.

"The recording process went relatively smooth," explains Paul Graham,

"compared to the last time. We were more prepared, I think. We already knew what it was like going into the studio, plus we had a long time to prepare for going in. Working with Caesar Kalinowski (who engineered) was really cool."

Before most people even hear the sounds captured in this studio experience, they are going to feast their eyes on a most unusual album cover. "I didn't come up with the cover," explains Rob Wolfe, "but it jibes really well with the way the whole album speaks to me. To me, that picture totally calls to mind that verse in Genesis 4:7, where God was talking to Cain and He said, 'Sin is crouching at the door. It desires to have you, but you must master it.' It just looks similar to sin crouching at the door, you know what I mean? The album really speaks a lot about sin crouching at your door and how you have to master it. You have to let God give you power over it, but you have to get on the horse and ride it."

Once someone gets past the album cover and gets into the music, the next thing they're probably going to find is the in-depth Bible study. "We wanted something different," explains Paul. "We not only were at a point to where we wanted to make the music different, but the ministry as well. No other thrash band out there had a Bible study in their album. We're not afraid to say, 'Hey, there's a Bible study in it.' I'm not sure if any of the tapes in the secular stores have the sticker on it, but some of the tapes I've seen say 'Includes Bible Study' on it."

"We wanted to really make it a point that we were really trying to teach. We really want to help kids understand the Bible. We feel like bands have a lot of influence on their audience, so if we can influence anyone who looks up to us to really get into God's Word and really study it, then we're doing exactly what we want to see happen. We really feel like we've accomplished something when we open up the tape and it's got a Bible

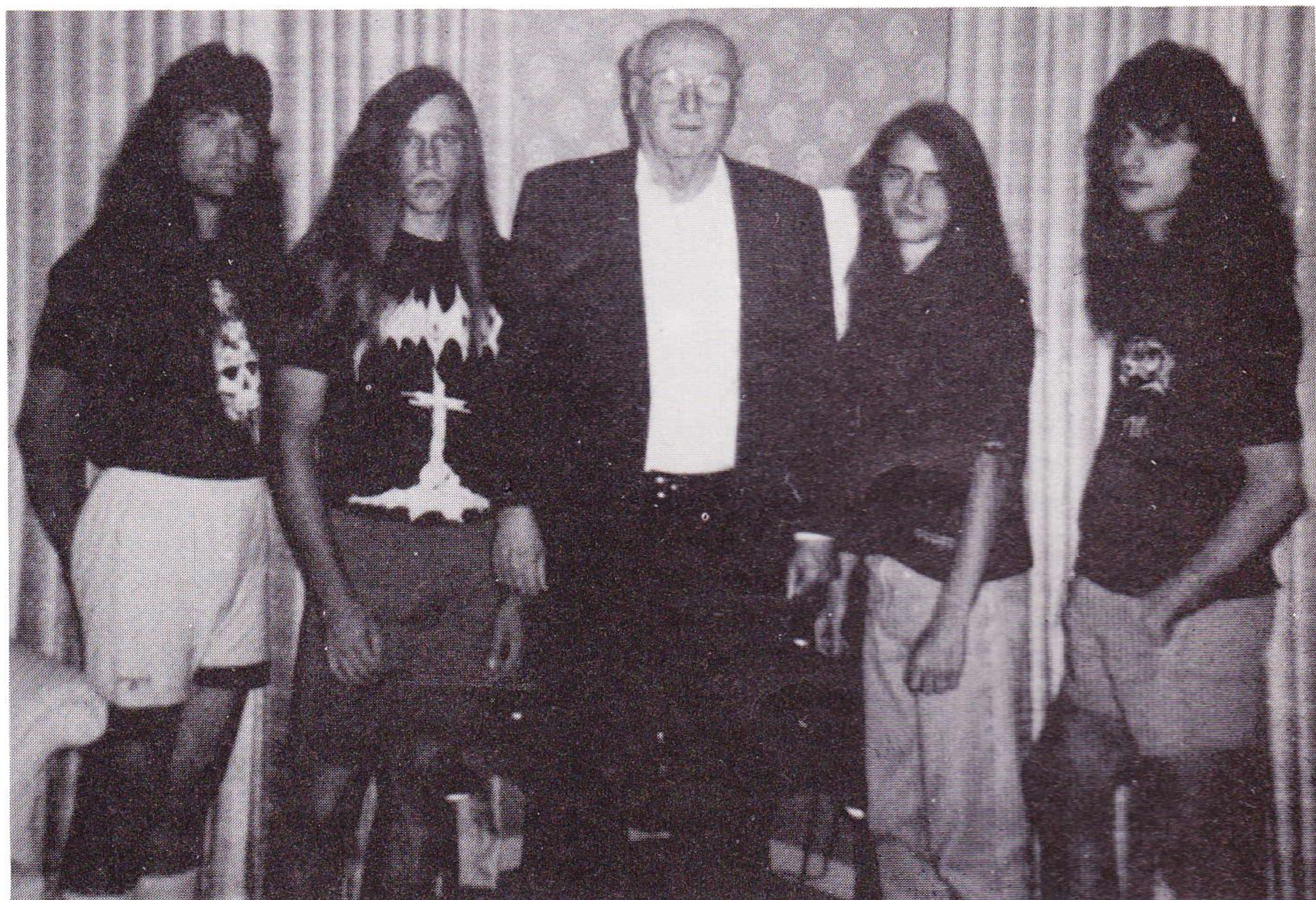
study right in it--as well as the lyrics. We originally wanted every song in there to have a Bible study, but that would've taken 30 flaps to print on. We felt like, if anybody likes the study and it challenges them, they can write to us and they can get the Bible studies for the other remaining nine songs."

"I really like the topics behind songs like **'Haunts of Violence,'**" adds Rob. "It shows you how you can re-adjust your outlook on the world. You can say, 'Yeah, the world is a dangerous place, but I'm in even worse shape if I don't get right with the Lord! There's a God out there and He's not happy with the way I've acted.' I think that's a concept that a lot of people just float around in life and never really get. There's like this great big weight hanging over them and it could drop at any moment--and they don't know it. It's really important to get that across, that urgency: 'Hey! You're in a lot worse shape than you think you are;' or, 'You think you're in good shape--guess what? You're not right with God. It's really important to know what's going on, because the Lord does not want you to be crushed by that weight. He loves you and wants you to come out of that whole scene. So, wake up! There's a different reality going on than what you're perceiving.' I really like that concept. I hope that's what the song puts across."

**"We
really
want to
help kids
understand
the Bible."**

"I think the topic in **'Destructive Heresies'** is an important topic for kids. There's certain kids who are confused about the topic of the whole evolution theory. I know a lot of kids who run into that wall of, 'Hey! What if they prove that this could all work out? We don't need a God to have life!' Kids are young. A lot of kids don't know much better than what they're just fed in school. Not that everyone's a mindless human, but that's what they're getting to work with. No one's told them, 'Hey, there's a lot of holes in that theory that has supposedly ruled God out. It has not ruled creation out.' I think people should know all the facts."

"I hope that it was written in such a way that a kid could, especially if he or she



Pictured with Rev. Fred Keefe, who oversaw the Bible studies.

grabbed ahold of the Bible study, realize that, 'Wow, there's a load of facts that totally negate whatever that stuff was that I was taught in school about evolution.' Evolution is pretty destructive. I think it's an important topic with some kids. Some kids could care less, but for the ones that do care, that's why I wrote it. I hope it has a good impact. There's much more writing and stuff involved in these studies than what's on the album. If a kid will bother to tap into that, there's a lot there. They're like topical studies. It's like, 'Here's a topic, and here's some scriptures that are super relevant.'

"A lot of people like **'Portraits of Decay.'** The study on that song is really interesting. It's like a contrast. It says different things in the song about false religions. It paints a picture of the hedonist, the agnostic and somebody that has the 'Hey, I go to church/I'm cool,' mentality. It contrasts that with what Christianity says. The song basically says, 'these are portraits of decay.' The study goes a little more in-depth answering, 'Why is that?'"

Sacrament has definitely hit on something here. It's amazing how many people fit this portrait of decay. So many people will hold you at arm's length and say, "I go to church. Don't you dare judge me." They're not acknowledging God for Who He really is, but simply treating Him as a hobby. It's nice to see a band addressing this head-on. "It seems like there's a lot of deadness floating around in a lot of your older mainline denominations," comments Rob. "It happens everywhere, but there's corners where you could go to church there your whole life and never get saved. That's bad."

So when do fans get a chance to hear this new material live? "We don't have

any shows on the roster for this winter," says Paul, "which is good, in a sense, because of the weather. I mean, you don't want to be driving up to Minnesota right now. It's really treacherous with all that snow! I would say that, starting in January, February, March, April, May, we'll hopefully get back out there. There's people booking us now."

These plans may be put on a mighty big hold, as Rob informs me later of some late-breaking news: "There's two things," explains Rob, as I try to guess what I'm about to hear. "One is: I've been talking in various churches and youth groups, where I share some things like these topical Bible studies and give parents a cool alternative besides, 'turn it down!' I'll take people through the scriptures and then follow up with questions and facts; much like the Bible study series we did with the album. I also give the youth pastors and parents information on tools they can use, so they can be educated about the resources they have in Christian music out there."

"Secondly, I've been working with a new band called Dry Bones, which is from New Hampshire. In the future, I will no longer be working with Sacrament, but doing music with Dry Bones. So, I'll be moving into some new ministry opportunities. Dry Bones is more along the lines of the music I'm really into, like bands such as Prong, Helmet, The Crucified, and maybe Mordred. I'll be playing guitar and singing. It's not that I didn't like the music that Sacrament wrote, it's that I'm more into the hardcore side of stuff, like the bands I mentioned. It's not like I'm not into thrash. I am, but I'm also into hardcore. It's a new outlet. I don't want people to think I was forced to do a thrash album or anything. It wasn't like that at all. It's just like another



part of me. It's a great opportunity to reach the many people who are into this style right now. It's really hot."

This must have come as a shock to the other band members. "Not really," said Rob. "They could smell that I was going to do something like this for the last couple of months, so it wasn't too much of a shock. I think that they're not really sure what they want to do in the future right now. They're just kind of absorbing it or putting it into their head."

"We're bummed, obviously," admits Paul, "to finish a tape and then not have a singer. I think him leaving was pretty mutual. To me, it didn't feel like there was any hard feelings about him moving on to another band."

Why leave a band right after finishing one album with 'em? "A big reason for leaving Sacramento," he explains, "would be just not clicking on what the emphasis should be--as far as just emphasizing ministry. If I wasn't going to leave to go with this other band, I would've just left Sacramento. I would probably just talk in churches for a while."

"I don't want to come across like I'm knocking them. I was just under the impression that it was going to be different. It seemed like Sacramento as a band said that we would do a bunch of things and then decided that we weren't going to do it. For instance, originally Sacramento would do a show and

then show up at your church and go over the Bible studies; and then it was like: Rob will show up at your church and do Bible studies. That would, I guess, sum it up."

"That plan was something that we would've liked to have done," explains Paul, "but the feasibility of it just wasn't working. There was no possibility of us playing a show and lining up a church at the same time. We tried to do that a couple of times, but it just didn't pan out. Rob is really the one that wanted to do the teaching part of it, more so than all of us. We just felt that it was not something we were going to be able to do at this time. That was one of the things that kind of upset Rob."

"We said, 'We can't do it right now, but if he wanted to do it--that was fine.' I think we even said that, if he wanted to, he could go out and teach the Bible studies and that would be his money. If he wanted to do that on his own and get paid for it, then it was fine with us. The thing that we were going to try to work on was just going to the churches and not doing so much a Bible study, but just explain what a Christian band was trying to do, how we reached the kids. Basically, 'What is Sacramento.' That's what me and Mike and Erik had been doing before Robbie had joined the band. We decided we wanted to stick with that and he wanted to do the Bible studies."

"When our consultant first suggested us doing the Bible studies, we all

thought, 'Yeah, that is really good;' but then, after we figured the logistics and the travel time with us having full-time jobs, we really couldn't risk taking the extra days off from work."

"Sometimes, I guess people just don't see eye to eye."

--Rob

"We were taking days without pay to do shows, but we just recently reached a point to where our employers said we couldn't take any more days without pay. Right now, with the way the economy's going--and I have a pretty decent-paying job that I've been at for nine years--for me to just say, 'Well, I'm gonna do these Bible studies and not get paid,' it wasn't gonna last very long. Eventually they'd ask us to leave. So, that was another factor. For Rob, he's living with his parents and at that point he wasn't even working, so for him it would've been ideal, but not as much for us. So, we differed in that decision. I take it that it was enough for him to decide he didn't want to



Erik Ney (Photo by Kirk J. Crippens)

stay with us.

"I think he felt hindered in our band from a musical standpoint. He wanted to come in and to sing and play our stuff, which we said was fine. We said, 'Why don't you just sing for now and you can learn the guitar parts and, once you get them so you can sing and play them, you can do it. He never got to the point to where he could play any of the songs. I think he really wants to play more than just sing and he just wasn't going to be able to do that in our band; whereas, the Dry Bones guys' stuff is more apt for him to play. He can sing it and play it too. I think that was another factor too. The style he wants to play is the same style as the stuff they're writing.

"I think he needed an outlet and those guys worked it out so that he could fit into their band, which is fine with us. We hope they really do well out there. I know they've got a lot of shows lined up. I hope that they go out and provide a strong ministry. It's important to add, too, that Dry Bones did not steal Rob away from us. The timing to join Dry Bones just came at a good time for him."

At times like these, disappointment becomes contagious--especially when it seems a lot of Christian bands have undergone personnel changes (almost every band you could think of right now has undergone at least one personnel change). "Yeah," muses Rob,

"I remember thinking, 'Gee, I always wonder why on earth your favorite band lineup only ever did one album and then changed people?' Once you're in a band and you start to work with people and realize all the different factors that get involved, then you understand why that stuff happens. Here I am in the middle, doing it. It's kind of bizarre, but now I understand why.

"From my own experiences, it can be explained this way: 'You get a bunch of cooks working on a recipe and some of 'em want to throw this in, and some of 'em don't want to throw that in. After a while, you're not making the same thing you thought you were making when you started. You threw all this other stuff in or you kept all this good stuff out. You end up saying, 'I'm not interested in cooking this anymore.'

"It really boils down to personalities and what people think are important. If it doesn't all match up, then it's just not there. If a person is going to look at this situation and go, 'Gee, that's disappointing. Why couldn't they just work it out?' Sometimes, I guess people just don't see eye to eye. If someone thinks one thing is not important and another person does, what can you do but move on to where you know you should be working? After a while you just have to wash your hands and say, 'Okay, it's time to move on. I can't

waste any more time.'

"I don't want any bad feelings to occur. I'd really rather not talk about leaving Sacramento, and just start talking about Dry Bones, but I realize that fans are going to want to know. I mean, people still write in and ask, 'What happened to Brian Toy and Mike Tyrone?' Years later they still ask about Toy. Some people just want to know that."

Sometimes a parting of the ways between ministry or business partners happens, like with Paul and Barnabas and Mark in the Book of Acts; yet someone inevitably comes up with a hardcore response like: "Well, I thought God called you to do this; and now you're leaving! What's the deal?"

"If someone's gonna think that," says Rob, "I'd be like, 'Yeah, God called me to do this--and I'm doing it. I'm not able to do it in Sacramento. I must go somewhere else. So, for me to stay in Sacramento would be not to do what I feel God's called me to do. To be disappointed in what I'm doing would be kind of like not allowing for God's grace to work with the situation and make it work in a different way than maybe you thought it would.' Everyone's running on God's plan and not their own--whether they realize it or not. Sometimes what God wants for you becomes a surprise to you and to other people.

He stretches our boundaries that way. I think it's real important to always do what you know is right.

"It's a hard decision: 'Okay, leave this. Here's a band that's not even signed. Go over there.' Now, we're not really concerned with the whole 'getting signed' thing. That would be a nice thing, but we're really concerned with taking advantage of the scene up there and just witnessing our hearts out to the crowd. That's where all the personal work is--where you can get in and get your hands dirty. You can put an album out and kids can listen to it and chew on it and stuff--and that's really good--but you can't shoot for that. The business is just so unpredictable. You could shoot for that for 12 years and never get signed; and the next guy over won't even care about it--and he has three albums out. We're just gonna do what we can see and tangibly do and make sure we're using all the talent the Lord gave us.

"My philosophy on the whole action is similar to the parable with the ten talents. You don't want to be the guy who buried the one that he got. He got cast out. You've got to use what you've got and invest it and get returns. If you're not doing it where you're at, you're gonna be that guy who buried his talent and the Lord is going to be very upset with you. He expected more out of you. He expects you to use all the talent you have. If you feel you're in a position where you can't do that, you better move somewhere else."

And the shock that it brings? "A thing like this," explains Rob, "you don't want people to focus on negatives. It seems like people in general will read some article and they always want to focus in and find some dirt. I'd hope people would read this and go, 'Okay, we're expecting something good to come out of this. What's going to come out with this other project?' Everyone's moving to the next realm. Because that's really what it's all about."

And what are Paul, Erik and Mike going to do? "It's put us in a spot," says Paul, "to where we decide: Do we want to get another singer and try to do a third tape, or try to get a singer for right now to play shows? We're not even sure if the thrash market is even going to be there much longer anyway. By the time we would get another singer and practice getting the material down and everything, I don't know if there's a possibility of getting a third album done, because the market might not be there by that time. If we had stayed together right now, I think we could've gotten another tape out before the market goes.

"I could be totally wrong, but just looking at stuff in the secular market and Christian market, it doesn't seem like thrash is the big music it was a couple of years ago. I've heard figures from Road Racer and Megaforce, and they said that thrash bands are selling

between 5,000 and 7,000 units, where death metal is selling, at a minimum, about 15,000 units per project. I think they've seen that balloon so much that they don't even talk to thrash bands anymore. We didn't feel like going into death metal.

"We're thinking about doing something totally different. There might be acoustic guitars, drums, marimbas, three or four bass tracks, electric guitar and a real singer. There's a band called 247 Spies. Their style is kind of the style that we're interested in playing. It's got acoustic breaks in there and it keeps your interest. The music just isn't in your face, fast and heavy all the time. It's still got a heavy edge to it, but then it breaks into some acoustic type stuff, where the drums are still playing something funky. Me and Erik and Mike have been praying about it and we feel like we should stay together. We're interested in pursuing something different at this point.

"It'll be something with kind of an hardcore, alternative edge to it, but, at the same time, there's gonna be a singer. The singer I think we're looking for is kind of like the guy from Living Colour (Corey Glover), where the guy's really singing. I'm not saying that Mike Tyrone and Robbie weren't singers, either. They were too, but it's just a different style. This would be like singing harmonies and everything.

"Right now we're planning on sitting down and writing some material in this new direction. We've done Sacramento. It's not like we just put together a band and a year later we were done. We've been together for almost five years. We've played our shows and done two albums. We're actually looking at it and saying, 'Hey, we really did what we were called to initially do, which was to go out and preach the Gospel and play shows.' The lyrics were pretty bold in what we were stating.

"I know there's a lot of bands out there that are dreaming of getting signed and would love to be in our position. We can say, 'We've done that. We were blessed that we were able to do these two projects. Right now we're just basically counting our blessings. The Lord has blessed us enough that He gave us the opportunity to go out and be His ambassadors to spread the Gospel. This new band is gonna be all Christians. We're still gonna present the Gospel. There's just a different style or accessibility to the public. You might see us put something out under a new name.'"

Now you know what's happening with Sacramento. Please pray for them as they seek the Lord for their future and pray for Rob and his speaking endeavors and his future with Dry Bones. For those interested in having Rob talk at your church or youth group, write: Rob Wolfe, 741 Beach St, Reading, PA 19605. To contact Sacramento, write: PO Box 262, Folcroft, PA 19032-0262. **HM**

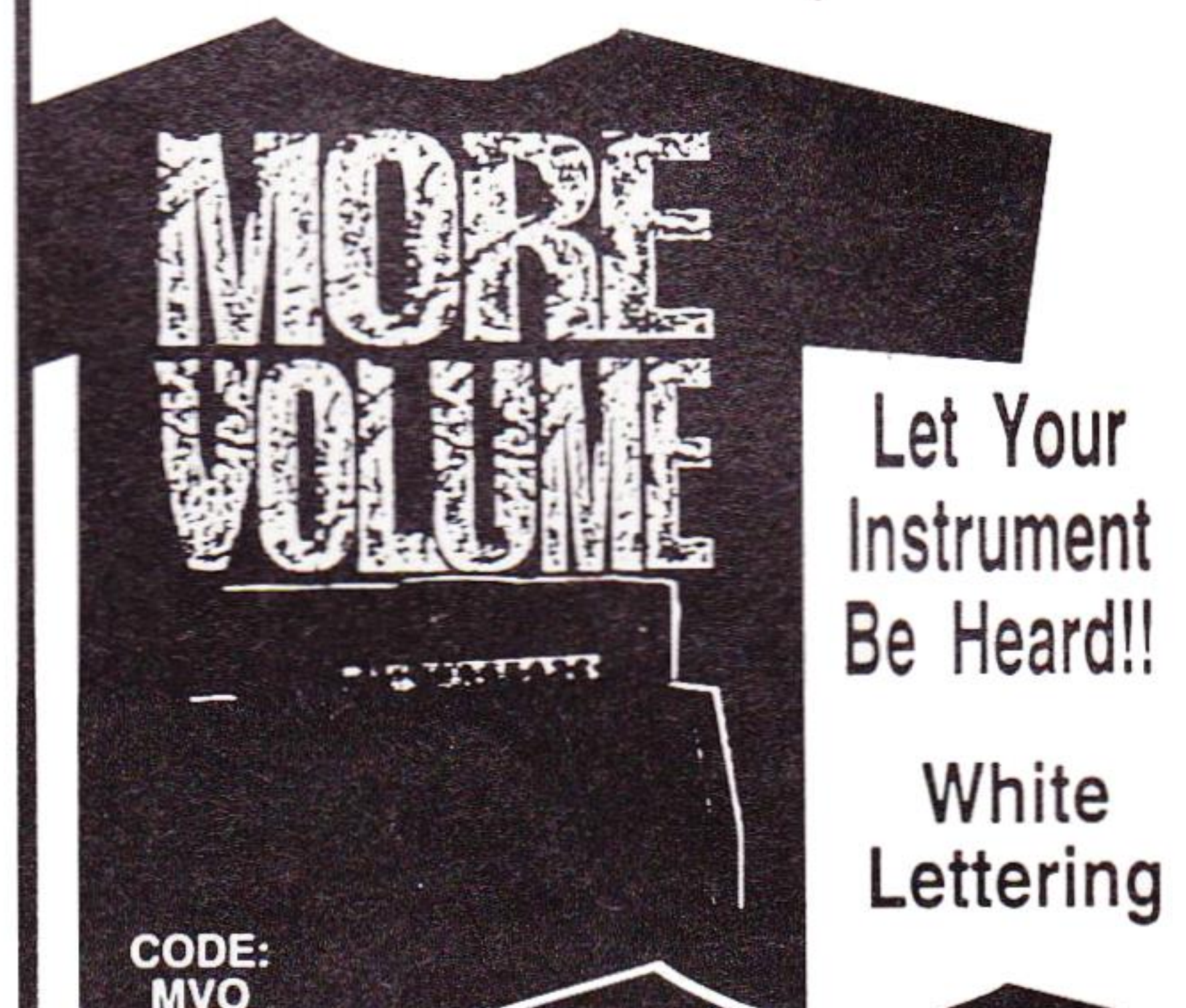
MUSICIANS

The shirt to wear... to sound check



OVER
SIZED
Black-T's

Wear it to
mix-down..... wear it anywhere!

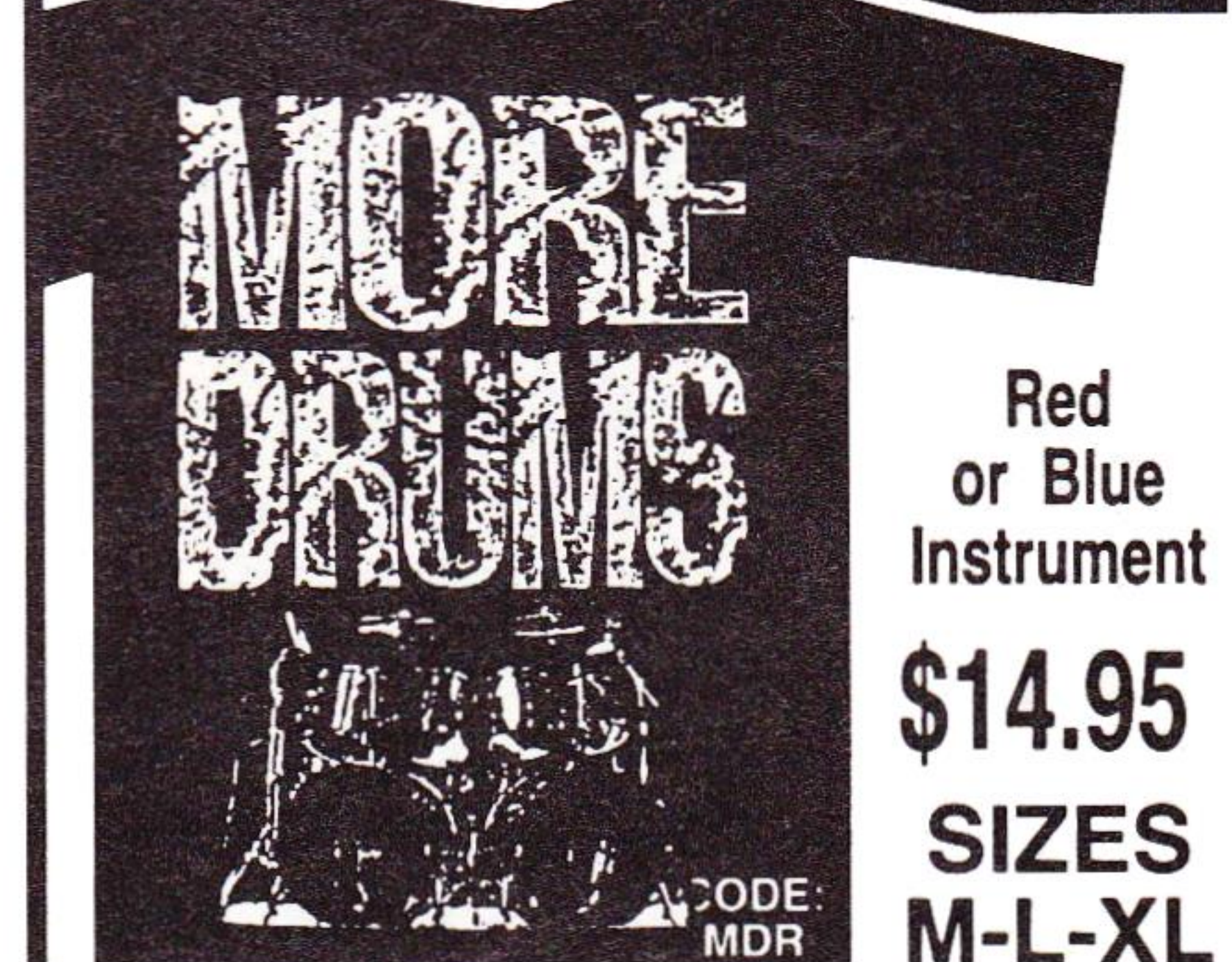


Let Your
Instrument
Be Heard!!

White
Lettering



Best
Quality-T
100%
Cotton



Red
or Blue
Instrument

\$14.95

**SIZES
M-L-XL**

KING'S REIGN PRODUCTS

For VISA & MASTERCARD Orders CALL

1-800-735-1704

Mail check,
money order
or your favorite
guitar to:

11721 Meridian Ave E.
Ste 275
Puyallup, WA 98373
(Retail Sales Welcomed)

Add \$2.50 S&H plus \$1 each additional item.

CODE	SIZE	COLOR	QTY	TOTAL

METAL TRACKS

Ken Tamplin will appear on a billboard in Southern California as part of the Orange County Register's advertising campaign for the Show section. He will appear on a special tri-vision billboard in Orange County and in other ads featuring the rocker looking at the Register's special weekly entertainment supplement, "Show," which will picture his face on the cover. Ken also recently made his national radio debut on talk-show host **Rush Limbaugh's** top-rated radio show. Tamplin had earlier taken time off from work on his upcoming album to produce the two radio spots for the colorful commentator. The first spot opens with an eerie Twilight Zone spoof featuring Tamplin playing guitar and saying, "You've now entered a dimension not only of sight but of sound mind--you've just entered the Rush zone." The second spot features Tamplin's trademark overpowering multi-layered vocals saying, "It's a Rush, It's a Rush, It's a Rush, It's Rush Limbaugh telling it like it is." Both spots began running in November and are expecting to run indefinitely.

Rey Parra left **Sacred Warrior** a couple months ago. The rest of the band was going to “take this opportunity to break away from the ‘Iron Maiden meets Queensryche’ sound,” explains guitarist **Bruce Swift**, when bassist **Steve Watkins** decided it was time for him to leave. “I want to continue to use my musical talent for the Lord,” says Steve. “The next thing I really want to do is make some children’s music. It’s amazing how powerful music is and helps them remember Bible stories.” Bruce reports that the name **Sacred Warrior** will now die and he and drummer **Tony Velazquez** will continue on--probably with a new name.

Paul Q-Pek has left **One Bad Pig**, which is in the prayer/planning stages of finding a replacement guitarist and possibly changing its sound. Paul and wife Kira have much to celebrate: their baby son was born in November--Clyde Stephen Charles Q-Pek. **Carey Womack** added another child to his family in November as well. **Jim Chaffin** of **The Crucified** is a new daddy. His wife gave birth to Nicolas James Chaffin, who weighed in at just over eight pounds.

Rob Rock, a powerhouse vocalist with a golden throat (who's sang for **Joshua**, **Angelica** and **Driver**), has recorded an album with **Chris Impelletteri** called "GRIN AND BEAR IT" for JVC/Victor in Japan. Chris and Rob just returned from a promotional tour of Japan, where the album is doing great and the fans are digging it. "I pray that the Lord will bless us with an American deal soon," says Rob. "We'll return to Japan at the end of

March for a tour.” They need a drummer and bass player and maybe a keyboardist for this tour and some L.A. dates. “I’m praying for some Christian players,” says Rob. Any takers can write Rob at: 4122 Playa Ct, Orlando FL 32812-2829. The material I’ve heard off the album is up to Rob’s typically brilliant standards. Yowza! Tunes like **“The Power of Love,” “Grin and Bear It”** and **“When the Well Runs Dry”** are pretty spiritually oriented tunes.

The Crucified has performed numerous concerts throughout Southern California this past fall, which have been phenomenal. Some highlights of their shows include the debut of **Applehead** being performed live. "Seeing **Greg Minier** perform **Applehead** is sublime," reports Heaven's Metal writer David Jenison, "because **Applehead** is definitely music that is meant to be played live." Also, at another show, **Chris Cooper** of **SFC** joined **The Crucified** on stage for a live version of Cooper's song "**The Hoods of Good**." The song itself samples from the **Crucified**'s "**Intro**" on "**PILLARS OF HUMANITY**," so it was fitting for him to do the song live with **The Crucified**. The most amazing aspect of the shows was the enormous turn-outs, averaging about 1,000 people at every show. This number is especially unusual considering the large number of times they've played in Southern Cal over such a short period of time. The only conclusion is that **The Crucified** is becoming the greatest Christian thrash band of all time.

Die Happy is in the studio working on "VOLUME TWO," the tentative title for their next release. "Shoe Shine Johnny" is the name of the new video **Guardian** is shooting for its new album. Look for it to appear on the first "HEAVEN'S METAL VIDEO MAGAZINE," along with some interviews with the band. **Betrayal** had a concert in California City, where the power went out. The band responded with an altar call and 15 people got saved! The Betrayal guys decided to go into a Deicide show in San Diego to see what their competition was like. Lead vocalist/satanist Glenn Benton sensed there were Christians in the crowd and tried to incite the crowd to violence against the Christians, but it didn't work.

This month will see the release of an industrial album with the heaviness of metal and thrash. The name of the "band" is **Brainchild**, which is another **Scott Albert** (Circle of Dust) invention. Scott is accompanied by R.E.X. top dog **Doug Mann** on this project. The album will be called "**Mindwarp.**" Other R.E.X. releases this month includes the "**Believer Home Video,**" which contains live concert footage in the

States and Europe, time just hangin' with the guys and, for some reason or another, tours of bathrooms around the world. Leave it to Believer. The video will only be available through R.E.X. Music, c/o Believer Home Video, PO Box 25269, Nashville TN 37202. **TRB** is a "70's meets the 90's" album with influences of bands like Bachman Turner Overdrive and Christian musical heroes REZ. TRB is a group of Canadian rockers.

“ALL HAIL THE POWER” is the name of a worship compilation being put out by Patriot Records (formed by former Neon Cross drummer Michael Butts). Jim LaVerde and Glenn Mancaruso played on it, and Robin Kyle, Russell Painter and Ken Pike (ex-Malachia) are three of the six vocalists who sang on it. Former Neon Cross guitarist TK Mitchell re-wrote several hymn standards for it, like “Amazing Grace” and “Nothing But The Blood.”

Hot Pink Turtle, who was signed to R.E.X. last summer, should have its debut album out by May. **Dodavahu**, another new band signed to R.E.X. (due in part to its inclusion on the “DEMOLITION” CD), is looking to release its debut album in June. On Saturday, January 9th in Nashville, several artists will perform a memorial and benefit for songwriter and musician **Mark Heard**. Besides several of the alternative acts that you’d expect to see joining in for this concert (like **Chagall Guevara**, **Rick Elias & Charlie Peacock**), **Giant** will also partake in this “unplugged” acoustic show. The concert is being recorded in audio and video formats for future release. For those unable to attend the show, a special fund has been created to receive donations: **The Heard Family Fund, c/o New Sound, PO Box 197, Merrimac MA 08160.**

Glenn Kaiser of **REZ** promises that his praise and worship album is finally almost done. Look for some worshipful acoustic tunes penned by Glenn himself (and a song book to go with!). Glenn and **Darrell Mansfield** are going to record "TRIMMED AND BURNIN' 2." **Crashdog** will be taking its "PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS" on the road for a two week tour this spring. **Saviour Machine** has been negotiating with a label and will possibly hit the studio early this month.

A "greatest hits" compilation CD is in the works for **The Daniel Band**, chronicling their material from "STRAIGHT AHEAD" to "RUNNING OUT OF TIME." **Craig Erickson**, who just had his debut solo album released on Shrapnel Records, just recorded an album with former Deep Purple member Glenn Hughes. He co-wrote 10 of the 12 songs. Other players on the album were: John Norum (Europe, Dokken), Mick Mars (Motley Crue),

Warren DiMartini (Ratt) and several other notables. The latest creation by **Jeff Scheetz**, the Guitarist Network Magazine (he changed the name because Guitar Maniacs was too scary for some advertisers), is a slick production that networks and serves guitar shredders. It features cool guitarist profiles and riff transcriptions. For info, write: PO Box 32776, Kansas City MO 64111.

Decision-D is scheduled to play several dates with **Seventh Angel** in Holland as this issue goes to press. **Generation** is the newest Wonderland act to enter the growing industrial field. Look for their album in May. Guess who plays guitar on it? **Bruce Franklin of Trouble**. Wonderland exec **Caesar Kalinowski** will play on it, as well as **Mark Robertson (Allies, Brighton, Rick Elias, The Stand)**. The debut is tentatively titled "BRUTAL REALITY." **Fighter** was recently honored at the annual Iowa Gospel Music Awards, being named best Contemporary group, and having the best drummer in **Sean Murphy**. Watch for **Fighter** on tour later this spring.

A.R.T. Records is a new label that is dedicated to non-commercial music. They are looking forward to taking their acts into the mainstream market--specifically the genres of grindcore, death metal, speed core, thrash, industrial-grind, industrial-dance, alternative, progressive, grunge and "anything else that is insane and on the edge." They will be doing a series of compilation albums entitled "UP FROM THE UNDERGROUND," which will have an accompanying video series. Also look for full length and EP releases. "We are also looking to take in superior quality demos from underground bands for re-mix and subsequent A.R.T. release. Some of the upcoming A.R.T. releases are: **Brother Grimm's** "MOTHER NATURE HAND-ME-DOWNS" (a grunge-like project); **Gothic Outcast's** "SIGHTS UNSEEN" ("one of the hottest death metal acts ever to emerge," A.R.T. says); an EP by **Final Prophecy** (a technical death metal act reviewed in HM several times); the first A.R.T. Records "split LP" with both **Royal Anguish** and **The Risen** sharing the album evenly (something done in Europe and Asia quite a bit, but the first for a U.S. company); and a 12-band compilation cassette entitled "ON THE RAZOR'S EDGE" to help support "Talk Back" with Bob Larson. The cassette will only be available by mail order and all proceeds will go to "Talk Back." The 12 tunes are: "Enslaved" by **Deathless**; "Red Ink" by **Red Ink**; "Divided in Truth" by **Final Prophecy**; "Atonement" by **Mortal Enemy**; "Speak the Words" by **Habitat**; "Presumed Dead" by **Sacrament**; "Force Fed" by **Precious Death**; "Consummation of the Age" by **Godhead**; "Violent Temptation" by **Akeldama**; "Dragon Slayer" by **Embryo Chrysalis**; "Phantom Armies" by **Axe Master**; and "Shocking the Priest" by **Royal Anguish**.

The happy (we presume) winner of the CD player (and a few cool CD's) from the Reader's Poll random drawing was Michael B. Moore of Springfield, Missouri. The winner of the "Heaven's Metal Trivia Contest" and the recipient of a "HEAVEN'S METAL COLLECTION" CD box set was Myles Milliman of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The questions and answers are as follows:

- 1) Which vocalist sings on this collection twice? A: Terry Haw (Leviticus & Jet Circus--this one was a toughie for many)
- 2) How many countries are represented on the collection? A: Four-- America, Canada, Sweden and Australia
- 3) Which bands feature female lead vocalists? A: REZ, Barnabas, Ransom
- 4) Which is the newest band? A: Mortification
- 5) Which band has the most albums out? A: REZ, with 13 (the tricky part was remembering "greatest hits" type collections)
- 6) What band is named after an apostle? A: Barnabas
- 7) What band used to have the word "Roxx" in their name? A: (This was the giveaway question) Stryper
- 8) On which cut did Mr. Big guitarist Paul Gilbert play on? A: "Jesus Will Reign" by The Darrell Mansfield Band (on the "REVELATION" album)

Sculpture is a Dutch "doom metal" band. For info, write: PO Box 1039, 2410 CA Bodegraven, The Netherlands. **Living Sacrifice** is getting some secular exposure in the new issue of Sounds of Death, alongside such acts as **Deicide**, **Cancer** (pray for these guys) and **Cannibal Corpse**.

The Encircled is a Christian thrash band from the Portland, Oregon area (like **Empty Tomb**). Write 'em at: 575 E. Wilshire, Hermiston OR 97838. So. Cal's **Jordan**, as reported earlier, has taken in **Scott Sifton** (formerly of **Artesia**, **Darrell Mansfield Band** and **Contagious**) on guitar. The new sound of the band is reportedly similar to **Slaughter**, **Lynch Mob** and **Guardian**. Look for a demo this spring.

Sanctuary South Bay has found a new building. After renting a church building for the last seven years, the church is moving into an old nightclub. "We are really excited to be able to have spontaneous celebrations, late-night pizza parties, and activities every night of the week." Now the Sanctuary South Bay office will be in a separate location from Sanctuary International, which will remain in the same house they've been renting for seven years also. For a "tour" of this famous house, buy the "SANCTUARY ACCORDING TO THOMAS" video (for a suggested donation of \$12 to: PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach, CA 90278). There are now Sanctuary's in Hollywood, San Diego, Oklahoma City, Seattle, Spokane and a new one in Denver.

Sanctuary has a publication for ministry bands called "Rock Missionaries Forum." It is a source of ministry and encouragement specifically for those involved in the Christian music ministry. Free sub. Send band name & address to: RMF, PO Bx 4130, Redondo Bch CA 90278.

Forum '93 is a youth convention taking place in Albertville, France taking place from April 23rd to the 25th. The steering committee is looking for Christian bands touring Europe at that time to come and play an outreach concert. Interested parties may contact Sylvain PAYA, 481 avenue Ducretet, 73200 Albertville, France.

Metalmania is an Italian hard rock/metal agency promoting bands in Italy and Europe. For info, contact: Gentile Emmanuel, CP 57, 1-96013, Carlentini (SR), Italia. BAM! is a new radio promotions company specializing in getting Christian music on college radio. For info, contact (313) 744-1612.

The rhythm guitarist for **Fortress**, **Mischa van Bradwyh**, picked up the drumsticks and replaced drummer/singer **Misja Jonler**. Misja will now concentrate on vocals and occasionally pick up a guitar. The band also lowered the price of its demo to \$5. Write: Hans van Vuuren, Gerrit van der Veenstraat 10, 3762 XL SOEST, The Netherlands.

Ozmathoq is working on a new three-song demo, and afterwards will work on a full-length project. The band also has its own studio, which they are open for business for other bands. They're also starting a newsletter with teaching for musicians and new Christians (for \$1.00 each). You can reach 'em at: Tri-Power Productions, Rt. 1, Box 145 A, Hammondsville OH 43930.

Canadian Christian artist **Bob Hanson** was in Nashville recently recording some new songs. Now in the process of shopping for a new label, Hanson is hopeful of the outcome. His previous releases include the single "Child on the Run" and the 12-song CD "NUFF SAID." For more info, write: #4-5407 Killarney St, Vancouver, B.C. V5R-5Y4, Canada. The God Rules Gazette has moved to: 307 N. Maney #4, Murfreesboro, TN 37129.

Nuclear Blast has signed a licensing deal with Intense Records for **Mortification's** "SCROLLS OF THE MEGILLOTH" album. Nuclear Blast is also picking up the "GRIND PLANETS" video for European distribution. The band is currently in the studio recording album #3, titled "POST MOMENTARY AFFLICTION." It should be out in April or May, along with the "GRIND PLANETS" video. Vocalist/bassist **Steve Rowe** tells us about the band's current direction: "After the recording of 'SCROLLS,' I have felt that the band is in some danger of being boxed in and I haven't felt convinced about the death metal title or total death metal approach. With the new album we are going back to a more

Because you deserve
the very best . . .

THE HEAVEN'S METAL COLLECTOR'S

31 SCORCHING METAL BANDS
BLAZING METAL HITS
PHOTOS & INTERVIEWS in a
Limited Edition Collector's Book
documenting Christian Heavy Metal

It's more than music . . .
It's a piece of our history!



Available at all Christian bookstores or by
calling Pure Metal (615) 269-0196



LIVE STUDIO

★ **NO OVERDUBS** ★
NO EDITS

★  **DELIVERANCE** ★

**QUALITY
STUDIO
SOUND**



**WITH A
LIVE
PERFORMANCE
FEEL**

performing their hits and covering the classics

Don't miss Rose,
Die Happy, Mortal
Live EPs coming
throughout 1993

FRONTLINE

MUSIC GROUP

**THE INTENSE
LIVE SERIES**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER TERRY TAYLOR
Dedicated to Making a Difference

Start your
collection today!
Collect all 5 for
your complete set!

INTENSE
Records

GUITARS, DRUMS, MORE GUITARS...



**THE HARD ROCK SOUND OF THE '70's
IS BACK WITH A MESSAGE FOR TODAY**

DIE HAPPY

VOLUME II

John 11:25-26

DON'T BE A PUNK!

**Stickers
\$1**

**New
Buttons!
\$1**

**Hats
\$5**

[See postage
rates - page 3]



**T-Shirts
\$10**

**Sweat
Shirts
\$20**

**Watches
\$30**

[See postage
rates - page 3]

WEAR HEAVEN'S METAL

Austin punks Stephen Wagers (Noise Priests), Carey Womack (One Bad Pig) & Butch (Lust Control)

Genesis 6:3 Then the Lord said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is **mortal**. Psalm 145:3 Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can **fathom**. Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your **mortal** bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot **fathom** what God has done from beginning to end. 1 Corinthians 15:53-54 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the **mortal** with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the **mortal** with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." Isaiah 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can **fathom**.



Available in February 1993

FRONTLINE
MUSIC GROUP

INTENSE
Records

crossover sound, covering musical elements of grind, thrash metal and a little bit of classic metal. I feel the Lord is definitely leading us to broaden our base of appeal for the purpose of ministry and future visibility. After surveying many new releases in secular death metal, a common trend of sameness and lack of creativity is very evident. After listening to four new bands in a shop the other day, I couldn't tell the bands apart. We are thus going after a combination of sounds to form a unique approach people will recognize. The new album is more musical, with more guitar harmony and many musical influences, somewhere between Morbid Angel, Sodom, Sepultura, Napalm Death and classic metal. Vocals this time will be less one-dimensional and incorporate both high and low growls with thrash vocals as well--like Kurt Bachman. The combination of growls and thrash shouts from line to line in a song sounds wild. Hopefully, no one will be able to classify us, but I'm sure 'Grinding power thrash' would come close.

"Death metal no more suits a Christian band than does black metal (as titles), as these titles tend to denote a philosophy as well as a sound. Don't worry all you die-hard grind fans--the album will still be real heavy, just a bit more diverse."

Several people have had their Mortification merchandise orders from the band's U.S. connection never fulfilled, to which the band apologizes. "We apologize for any delays or non-receipt of orders," says Steve. "Our U.S. contact faced some business difficulties, but we are working on fulfilling the orders. All orders from now on will be coming to us in Australia. However, we do not have stock of any old designs. What we do have at the moment is "SCROLLS OF THE MEGILLOTH" T-shirts for \$20 (U.S. \$). Send cash or money order payable to: PO Box 339, Mentone, Vic., 3194 Australia. See you all on tour between June 15th and July 15th in the U.S.A."

Roger Martinez, Mortification's U.S. connection pledges that he will fulfill every order that has been placed with him--and promises some "interesting freebies" to "those who have been so patient."

Roger's friend and bassist, Michael John Wagel, has a ministry in which he brings God's Word to life. Wagel, who has memorized entire epistles of Paul, dresses up as the apostle and dramatically recites an epistle from memory with all the emotion, feelings, inflections, and expressions that would be present if Paul himself were reading it. Anyone interested in a demonstrational video or more information can call him at (310) 366-7960 or write to: Living Letters, 2819 W. 175th St, Torrance CA 90504.

Love Coma, is an exciting cerebral alternative rock band that shows glimpses of being a 77's prodigy. Write 'em at: 13003 Skyline, San Antonio, TX 78230. HM

Editor's Picks:

We polled our faithful contributing editors and asked them what their top five favorite albums were in '92, as well as their choices for "favorite custom tape" and "favorite live show." Here's what they said:

Favorite Album

Pastor Bob Beeman

- 1 Sanctuary Praise - "Hiding Place"
- 2 Sardonyx - "Majestic Serenity"
- 3 Magdallan - "Big Bang"
- 4 Tourniquet - "Pathogenic Ocular Dissonance"
- 5 Handel's Messiah - "A Soulful Celebration"

Jeff Scheetz

- 1 King's X
- 2 King's X
- 3 King's X
- 4 King's X
- 5 King's X

David Bach

- 1 Extreme - "III Sides to a Story"
- 2 King's X
- 3 Bride - "Snakes in the Playground"
- 4 Adam Again - "Dig"
- 5 Prayer Chain - "Whirlpool"

Kemper Crabb

- 1 Lust Control - "We Are Not Ashamed"
- 2 Lust Control - "We Are Not Ashamed"
- 3 Lust Control - "We Are Not Ashamed"
- 4 Lust Control - "We Are Not Ashamed"
- 5 Lust Control - "We Are Not Ashamed"

Doug Van Pelt

- 1 King's X
- 2 Die Happy
- 3 Asight Unseen - "Circus of Shame"
- 4 Deliverance - "Stay of Execution"
- 5 Novella - "A Liquid Earth"

Favorite Custom Tape

Pastor Bob Beeman

Precious Death

Jeff Scheetz

Craig Erickson

David Bach

LoveWar (Demo)

Kemper Crabb

Lust Control (I didn't get any custom tapes and I can't imagine what afflicted the other editors not to pick LC)

Doug Van Pelt

Precious Death

Favorite Live Show

Pastor Bob Beeman

Electrik

Jeff Scheetz

King's X

David Bach

Bride (at C-Stone '92)

Kemper Crabb

Lust Control

Doug Van Pelt

King's X/Galactic Cowboys

METAL RADIO CHART

Here are the TOP 20 METAL SINGLES (reprinted courtesy The CCM Update) as of December 14th:

- 1 "Wisdom Calls"
Veni Domine
- 2 "Rattlesnake"
Bride
- 3 "Six Feet Under"
Applehead
- 4 "Let's Make A Deal"
Ordained Fate
- 5 "Real"
Die Happy
- 6 "Haunts of Violence"
Sacrament
- 7 "Spineless"
Tourniquet
- 8 "Stay Of Execution"
Deliverance
- 9 "Bang The Drum"
Fighter
- 10 "Inflamed"
Mortification
- 11 "The Pillars of Humanity"
The Crucified
- 12 "Paradise"
Crystavox
- 13 "Divination"
Haven
- 14 "Falling Away From Reality"
Seventh Angel
- 15 "Fallen Deceived"
Betrayal
- 16 "Woody"
77's
- 17 "Story"
Novella
- 18 "Cage"
Die Happy
- 19 "S.O.S."
Bloodgood
- 20 "If I Lose My Way"
Mad At The World

HM

What Tora Tora Sez:

This issue our "What So and So Sez" article brings us to Memphis hard rockers Tora Tora, who were on tour recently with Joe Satriani. When the band's tour bus pulled into Austin, Heaven's Metal editor Doug Van Pelt and lead vocalist Anthony Corder sat down and talked about Rock and Roll and the Rock that doesn't roll. Check it out.

****Your a band that's in between phases: You're not just starting out and you're not super-duper established. What's it like being there?**

"It's great," answers Anthony. "The whole reason we ever got together is we just all enjoy playing together and playing live. So, getting on the road and gettin' to travel all over the whole country and meet all kinds of different people from all sides of life is just great. It's a real-life learning experience. Being around the different music scenes and seeing the different bands and, you know, checking out how different life is in various cities. It's been wild.

"When we toured our first album, 'SURPRISE ATTACK,' it was like the craziest thing to us. Fortunately for us, A&M has been really behind us the whole time. They put us out. We stayed out on the road for 'SURPRISE ATTACK' for about a year, with just a couple weeks off here and there between tours. They kept us out and that's how we built up our fan base. When we went home to start working on the new record, we were, like, inspired heavily just by our traveling and seeing everything for the first time, like New York City and places like that.

"I'm like a guy that grew up out in Mississippi somewhere. When I was growing up my dad worked for the airlines, so I moved around to a couple of different cities, like way up North in South Dakota, down in Houston, Texas and then moved to Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Somehow or another I ended up in Memphis playing with these guys. Everybody thinks about jamming in a band when you're a kid. You know, jumping around the room with your tennis racket. I never thought about it, where I seriously thought, 'This is what I'm gonna do.' I had no idea.

'Wild America' is like a day-to-day look at our life out on the road, because all we'd live for is, like, the hour and a half we'd get to play. All the rest of the time you'd be, like, killing yourself. You'd either be jammin' or wanting to get out of the hotel or get off the bus for a little while. We wanted to write a song to our fans.



L-R: Patrick Francis, John Patterson, Anthony Corder, Keith Douglas

"I was just turning 19 when we got signed in '88. When we first went on the road I was underage, so some of the bars we played at wouldn't let me in until we played. When we started the band, we never thought about being signed. That was, like, not even reality. We were just trying to play the songs. When we first started, we were playing copy tunes for the first couple of weeks. Then it was like, 'Man, we're butchering these. Let's just do our own stuff.' All we were worried about was just jamming, playing parties in big back yards and stuff. The main thing is we're (still) enjoying it."

****Do you have any roots in Gospel or a church scene from Memphis?**

"Yeah, you know, I sang in church and stuff, but I never did solos. I don't know what it is. Even now, to a certain extent, I couldn't stand being in front of a lot of people. I was real rowdy and stuff if I was in the group of people, but then if I got up in front of the people I'd be quiet. When we first played a gig, I didn't even look at the audience. Eventually some friends of ours in a band

encouraged us to get into it more.

"Memphis has got a good rock scene and a good blues scene. Al Green has got a church there. I've never been to it, but they say his services last about three hours long. I'd love to go see it. All the record company people that fly in--they always go. It's a show. They not only go to church, but they get down! They start jamming. None of the churches I ever went to jammed like that. I did some singing in the choir, but none of 'em ever had guitar or drums or stuff."

****What are your general feelings on Who Jesus Christ was?**

"My philosophy is that He was God's Son. That's how I was brought up--Southern Baptist. It's wild. Out here, when we come through and do all the shows and stuff...it's so weird how you can effect people's lives. Not only me, but just everybody. Just from your day to day contact with people; how you just walk by 'em on the street and smile at 'em or say something cool to 'em. You never know what's going through somebody's mind. Everybody's got problems. But, believe it or

not, it makes a difference sometimes. You can really effect people. I don't know. It's a trip being here. You run into all kind of characters and see all kinds of stuff. To me, religion in general, though--just from everything I've been through--it's your choice. It's up to each individual. It's in your heart. It's something you've got to make up your own mind about."

****What do you think about, like, the stance that Jesus made? Like, He sort of, in my opinion, drew a line in the sand and said, "I'm God's Son. There's no other way. You need to come to Me if you want to get to the Father. No and's, if's or but's." How do you feel about the stand He made?**

"Umm. I think it's fine. It's like I told you. To me, it's a personal choice. It's what you want to do. Only you can deal with what you do, man."

****I was brought up in Southern Baptist, too, up in Virginia. My dad was in the Air Force and I moved around a bit too. So, you've definitely heard about Hell and people talking about, "If you don't do something about the sin in your life, you're gonna end up there after judgement." How does that fit in with your philosophy about personal choice? Because, if somebody chooses not to follow Christ, therefore, according to that philosophy, they would go to Hell.**

"Well, that's their consequences, you know? Hey man, I mean...from my own understanding, God gives you every opportunity, you know? If you want to accept Him into your life and do His work and be dedicated and all that, then you've got your chance, man. If you turn away and something happens to you (laughs)...I don't mean to be knocking people or something, but, you know, if they get run over or something... Nobody knows how long you're here for. You've just got to do your time here and hope for something better. Always believe in yourself, man. You can make things happen. You can change things. You've got the power.

"I don't know, man. Everybody's got their own idea of what Heaven and Hell and the devil and all that is. I mean, people can teach you about it and all that, but do you have your own ideas about it? I mean, Heaven gets described to you with golden streets and no need for anything, the ultimate place, man. So, you have to decide in your heart. What it boils down to is it's in your heart, man. Not everybody makes the right decision. It's sad. Some people don't ever get exposed to it. You go to some places in the world and they don't even know Who God is. Or, some people are taught their whole life and never figure it out (laughs).

"It's crazy. It's so funny, because you hear all these stories about, you know,

people who go to church every Sunday and they're hypocrites. I don't mean any disrespect, but they go to church and they're smiling and everybody's friends and everything's great. The next year they're embezzling or they rape somebody or something. I don't know. It's just your own values. It's how you're brought up. It's in your heart. You've got to decide what you're gonna do. And people can help you, you know? If you can't make up your own mind, somebody else can help you and talk to you."

****How do you feel about people taking responsibility for others? Like, if Hell is real, then you're taking the responsibility of warning somebody, like saying, "Hey, I care about you. I don't want you to go to this place."**

"I think that's great, man. That's all part of doing what's right; or doing what God tells ya is right, ya know? You've gotta witness. Tell 'em. Go tell it on the mountain (grins). Tell it in the street.

"If you want to accept Him into your life and be dedicated and all that, then you've got your chance."

"I don't think there's any bad messages behind what we sing. A lot of our stuff is just good rock and roll. I guess some of our lyrics kind of get dark, but it's more or less just from listening to the blues all the time. For the most part, we just try to say, 'Don't let life get ya down, man. You should never give up. Always believe in yourself and give it your heart and soul and just, you know, 'hang on. It gets better, no matter how bad it gets, it always gets better, so hold out.'"

****It's kind of a feeling I get when I think of suicide. You never know what five years down the road is gonna be like, so don't wipe it out now.**

"Yeah, it's so sad, because your body gets all screwed up when you're a teenager. Everything changes. I never believed it for a long time. I was like, 'Nothing's wrong with me! What do you mean?'

****Have you had any contact with bands that preach on stage?**

"No. I don't preach on stage at all. The closest thing that I would say is religious is our song called 'Phantom Rider.' It was a ballad on the first record. The whole song is

talking about celebrating life. You're only here so long. It's short. It's really short. When you're young you feel like life is going to go on forever and you think you're invincible. It's like, 'Nothing's going to change.' You've gotta make the most of it. You've gotta try to be happy. Just take advantage of every moment. It's like, 'You're only young once, make the most of it. Have a good time. Don't get down.' It's hard on everybody. You've just got to stay up and keep it going."

****Different people can take the "make the most of everything" different ways. If somebody or God's Word says, "Don't get drunk" or something... I believe it's not just some stupid rule, but it's spoken for the person's own good. Alcohol slowly but surely poisons your body. Some people can take that, "make the most of it," and kind of self destruct. You know, making the most of it by just having a good time in their own ways is really just kind of destroying 'em. There are certain things that you can do that are fun, but wreak havoc on you later.**

"Yeah. There is a lot of things out there. The rock and roll world is definitely crazy. You kinda have to be halfway crazy to even start playing music anyway. It helps to be crazy. But, we're lucky, man. All the guys in our group are the same guys (that started). We're like a big family. We're all crazy. I guess that's how we fit together so good. It means a lot to have people you're close to, besides the band."

****When you think about it, all we have on this earth is relationships. We can't take our portable phone or guitar.**

"So, what does the Bible say," Anthony asks. "Will you recognize people in Heaven?"

****I think so, there's one story that Jesus told that was about this guy named Lazarus who died. He was a poor man and the rich man went to Hell and they could see each other. The guy that's in Hell is saying, "Let me go and get a drink of water." It was like, "No way. We can't, because there's a chasm between us." He sees Lazarus up there, so it makes me think that you will recognized folks. You're gonna have your personality. Even if your face gets blown off in a war, people are gonna recognize ya. It kind of makes reference to it in that story. I can't think of anything else. It doesn't say anything that contradicts it.**

"I've heard that story before."

****Did you ever have a time in your life where you felt like you gave your life to God and you accepted Jesus as the Son of God?**

"Umm, yeah. In the church I grew up in. The preacher was my teacher at school too."

**Do you ever look back and feel like you're further away from God or things have changed?

"Not to me. It's like, I hate to keep repeating myself, but to me it's in your heart. You know and God knows. It's yours. That's basically my whole philosophy. I come into contact with all kinds of people, where religion never comes up, but you know by being around 'em (where they're coming from). There's people I've been around in Memphis that don't believe at all. It seems pretty bleak and hopeless. I don't get it. It's sad, you know."

**Do you ever talk about it amongst the band and see how the other guys feel?

"I don't know. They're not all the most avid church goers. Religion comes up every once in a while. But we don't go to church together or anything like that. It's not something we ever talk about much. We've just wondered about the jam sessions that go on in Heaven. That's about it."

**Do you get many questions like this on the road?

"Never. This is the first one ever."

**I hope I didn't come across as any sort of finger-pointing at all.

"Oh, you didn't. Not at all. It was pretty different. Usually it's 'How did you get your name?'"

**I like to share a little bit of what I'm about and what this is about and have you share what you're about...

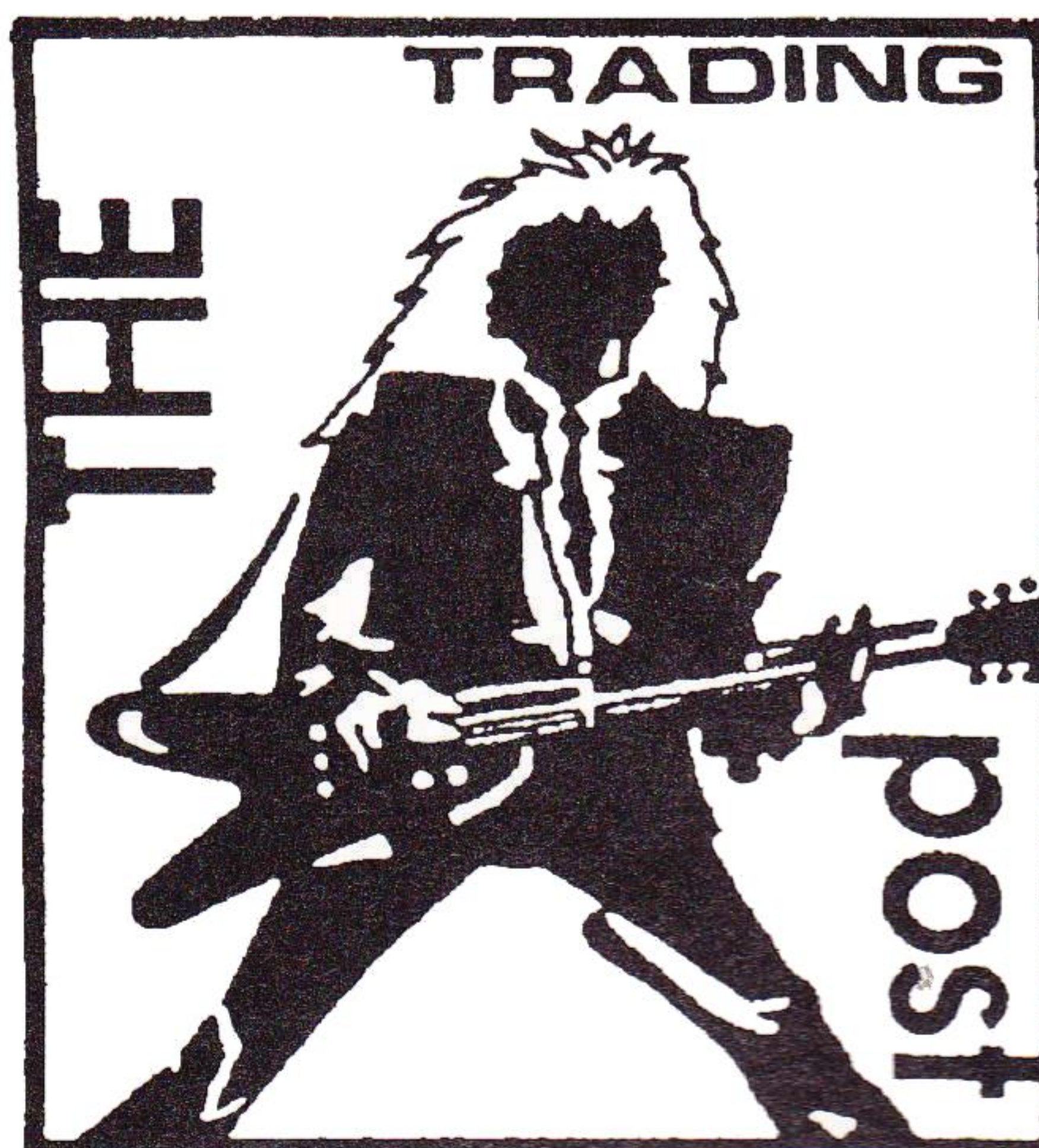
"We're just having a good time, basically, and enjoying it. We feel really lucky that we get to share our music with everybody."

**A few readers out there who, when they read this interview, they'll pray for you. If you were taking prayer requests, what would you request people pray for?

After thinking about it awhile, he says, "Pray that the bus doesn't catch on fire and the truck doesn't break down. That's it. Just that the crew doesn't break down."

**I appreciate talking to you.

"Thanks for taking the time to do it. Merry Christmas." **HM**



Trading Post classified ads are \$20 for 50 words or less, and \$0.50 per word beyond 50 words. Radio shows must send paid ads on station letterhead.

* **Notebored:** the home of serious rock 'n' roll. Covering Christian rock and Christians in rock. Artists such as Charlie Peacock, Holy Soldier, Mark Heard, Guardian, Sam Phillips, Betrayal, da, Out of the Grey and King's X. Listeners of rock, rap, metal, alternative, or even pop send \$8 for a 1 year subscription (6 issues) to: Notebored Subscriptions, PO Box 238, Atglen PA 19310-0238 or call (215) 593-7176 and be billed with your first issue. A sample issue is available for \$2 pre-paid.

* **The Cutting Edge:** \$9 for 12 issues (Overseas send \$20). Dan Kennedy, 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando FL 32810.

* **White Throne #12** is now out. Major interviews with: Bride, Sacrament, Brian Healy/D.A.S., Stinging Rain, Hoi Polloi, Radiohalo, Scott Blackwell, and more. Read Commander Mosh's Thrash Report. Over 80 album & demo reviews spread over 68 pages. Send \$3 for issue #12. To subscribe, send \$12 for the next 6 issues to: White Throne, PO Box 20577, Dept H, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

* **Gospel Metal** - For a sample issue, send \$3 to: Keith Day, 3533 E. Chapman Ave., Ste. L-271, Orange CA 92669-3814.

* **THIS PROPHECY** The Christian Rock mag that grows hair! Interviews, record reviews, guitar instruction, reader mail, giveaways, cartoons, lots-o-photos, the latest rock news, new bands, equipment and much, much more. Subscribe today! Just send \$8 U.S. (\$10 Canada, \$25 Foreign) in check or money order to: This Prophecy, PO Box 391, Lewis Run PA 16738.

* **CROSS RHYTHMS** - Europe's leading Christian music mag. Fully comprehensive review section reviewing EVERY Christian album available in the UK. Send international money order for 52.80 sterling to: Cross Rhythms Subscription Dept, Cornerstone House, 28 Old Park Rd, Peverall, Plymouth, Devon, England, PL3 4PY for 12-issue sub or 4.00 sterling for sample issue.

* **TiSch & ChriSto**, Germany's leading Christian underground distributor would like to sell your demo/custom tape/CD too. Send sample for review and consideration. We are also interested in all kinds of merchandise. Write today when you're interested in distribution out here! Chris Stoll, Grafendeichstr. 60, 6000 Frankfurt/M. 70, West Germany..

* **THE CD TRADER SEZ:** HAPPY NEW YEAR, NO NEW PRICES! Trade in your gift CD's for something you really want! Send a SASE for your free catalog from PO Box 34144, Louisville KY 40232..

* **THRASH/DEATH/GRINDCORE** radio show. Copies available upon request. Send \$2.00/show for cost of tapes & postage. FREE to those overseas & Correctional Institutions. Send check or money order to: Tempered Steel c/o Dale Early, PO Box 1212, Ft. Myers, FL 33902. (813) 275-3455..

* **Golgotha Zine** - Once known as Jesus Rocks, is a punk-thrash, death metal, hardcore zine. And it's just \$4.50 USA a year, foreign \$5.80 Canada \$5.80 a year. Make all check or money orders to: Shawn C. Bates at: 901 N. Dearborn St, Indpls. IN 46201-2405..

* **Christian Metal Guitarist Chad "The Blaze" Moore**, 23 yrs. old. Seeks a sincere Christian lady, 23-27, Blond, blue eyes, nice figure. A heart for Christ and Sacred Warrior, Holy Soldier, Whitecross. Unanswered Prayers and lonely? Here's your answer! Send photo, with letter. 609 10th Ave, Canyon, Texas 79015..

* **B.C. Rich Custom St 3** with EMG pickups, original Floyd Rose, reverse head stock, custom graffiti paint job. Owned by George Ochoa of Deliverance/Vengeance, in Heaven's Metal centerfold (issue #26). \$750.00 with case. (213) 462-3599.

* **Christian rock band** with international release seeking vocalist for upcoming projects. Please reply to 44 Glendale Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S 1W4 or leave phone or fax message at 613-839-1755.. **HM**

TOURS

WHITECROSS

2/12 Cuyahoga Falls OH 708-695-1444
2/13 Dayton OH
2/14 Cincinnati OH
2/16 Lexington KY
2/19 Pittsburgh PA
2/21 Lancaster PA
2/25 Boston MA
2/27 Medford NJ
2/28 CMCH NJ
3/2 Baltimore MD
3/6 Washington DC
3/9 Richmond VA
3/11 Columbia SC
3/13 Atlanta GA
3/17 to 3/27 Europe

BLOODGOOD

1/16 Spokane WA 519-327-5801

REZ

1/24 to 1/27 Finland & Denmark
1/29 Germany
1/30 Germany
1/31 Switzerland 312-989-2351

CRASHDOG

2/13 Minneapolis MN 612-379-2858
2/19 Traverse City MI 616-941-5309
2/20 Muskegon MI 616-285-3772

ALBUM REVIEWS

LIVING SACRIFICE "NONEXISTENT"

R.E.X.

Totally brutal! One listen to cut #2, the title track, and you know you've got something special here, with lightning fast double rhythms. The leads on top of the rhythms here have that cool wah-wah effect. The lead-off cut, "Enthroned," features a flurry of sound interspersed with some very tasteful acoustic guitar picking. This acoustic touch welds the first two songs together (along with the intro). It's one of the wildest worship tunes ever. The vocals, of course, seem to be nothing more than the last few agonizing screams of a dying vampire--but hey, that's progress, right? You can fly through this disc (of 40 minutes and 25 seconds) and realize that you haven't picked up a single word uttered by D.J. in his guttural death/grindcore vocal style.

"Atonement" is probably the standout cut here. It's extremely heavy. It reminds me of Metallica's "wall of crunch" sound. The chorus of "Atonement, atonement" is delivered creatively with D.J. starting the first syllable as one word and "ment" as another. Good stuff...

"Haven of Blasphemy" is a roaring song with all the attitude that this subject conjures--lots of judgement (death by guitars, if you will). The drum sound was tuned in well. The snare sounds tight, like a plastic drum; the high-hat is nice 'n' crisp and the kick drums are solid.

By segue-ing songs by bumping them up next to each other (like "To Nothing" into "Void of Expression"), this makes them sound like one song with a rest and time change. Many other songs have lots of acoustic intros and outros, which seems to weld this 9-song album together as one suite. The rhythms throughout are very convincing (ie. heavy and catchy enough to send your neck into spontaneous hyperextension). These Mountain Dew drinkers deliver a performance fast enough to consider outlawing caffeine.

--Spiny Norman

TOURNIQUET "PATHOGENIC OCULAR DISSONANCE"

Intense

The new Tourniquet album comes after a strong showing on their debut album, with tunes like "Ark of Suffering" and vocals eerily close to King Diamond; and a most excellent sophomore effort with "PSYCHO SURGERY." The anticipation for this album has been high--and undoubtedly mounted after a three-month delay. My widest observation of

this project? It takes longer to get into than "PSYCHO," which was immediately accessible to these ears. After several listens, the riffs and efforts behind these songs begin to jell. Only a few songs carry the immediate "grab you by the throat and pick you up" hooks; those being "Phantom Limb," "Exoskeletons" and "Theodicy On Trial."

"Impending Embolism" starts off the record as a non-song intro, beginning with a voice-over on top of spinning, psychotic riffs trading off from left to right channels. The title track follows as a real screaming thrasher, with the chorus simply being the title slowly shouted out.

"Exoskeletons" is the best song on the album. It's got an excellent groove and a great chorus hook, which is probably driven in the ground a bit at the end. There's an emotional a cappella delivery on top of swirling samples in the first two verses, followed by the big groove, bringing to mind the classic "Broken Chromosomes." I can't get enough of this tune. It's a monster!

"Ruminating Virulence" has a very contagious and thrashin' rhythm and feel with Gary Lenaire handling "urgency" vocals on the first two verses and Guy Ritter comes in for resolution on the concluding verse: "When you put away bitterness, you will see what you have missed." Wanna heavy, "beat you over the face," tune? Check out "Incommensurate," featuring the angry vocals of Lenaire and Macias (singing in Spanish no less!). "Gelatinous Tubercles of Purulent Ossification" is a heavy, psychedelic-type tune. The middle of the song has a long bridge with several cool starts and rests. "Theodicy on Trial" features some cool lyrics about Job, with an excellent vocal shout/trade-off between Guy and Gary in God's "argument" with Job.

Lyricaly, it's easy to wonder if Tourniquet desires to make us all medically literate (By the way, this medical vocabulary comes from drummer Ted Kirkpatrick's pen and not vocalist Guy Ritter--as erroneously reported in HM #37). Anyway, there's some awesome statements here, like the parallel drawn in "Phantom Limb" about the mysterious phenomenon amputees have when they "feel" their missing limbs with the severing of communication with God: "But just like the feeling in your arm that is gone/ You've severed communication with Him all along."

In "Gelatinous Tubercles of Purulent Ossification," Ted addresses the end result of cigarette smoking for many: throat cancer. "The dreams that you had grew cold/ Your mistake burdens you a hundred fold/ God knows our hearts are weak/ But we must learn

to think before we speak/ And consider the damage that we wreak/ By choosing a foolish road to seek." Interspersed throughout the song are samples of one such victim, who must hold a voicebox to his throat to speak in synthesized tones. Cool effect that doubles the lyrical impact.

Although my initial disappointment with this album has turned to glee, I still think Tourniquet could've done better on this one--its second album licensed to Metal Blade. Hopefully, most of the listeners of this album will give it a chance to sink its very contagious hooks into their skulls.

--Doug Van Pelt

WHITECROSS "HIGH GEAR"

Star Song

If you're like me, you've paid close attention to this band since its debut album in 1988. Have you also wondered, since its disappointing "IN THE KINGDOM" album last year, "Just how commercial are these guys gonna get?" The good news is that this album is an improvement over last year's Dove Award winner.

The title cut has that familiar Whitecross sound: nice cutting guitar lines over very hooky rhythms and the sassy vocals of Scott Wenzel. "Dancin' In Heaven," though espousing a great message about the biblical-ness of dancing ("If you let the Spirit move/ Even you can catch a groove"), it comes off as a little bit too nice for the tough 'n' troubled metal market. "In America" is, as Rex Carroll accurately put it, "In The Kingdom" Part Two." A nice song/acoustic-flavored anthem, yet too darn similar to last year's single.

"Overdrive" is this album's version of "Nagasaki," "The Hammer & The Nail," "Flashpoint" and "The Eternal Fire" rolled into one--NOT!!! It sounds more like Rex is warming up for an explosion that never happens. Actually, if his guitar was just turned up to 11 here it would make all the difference in the world. It's buried behind keyboards. "Without Your Love" is a strong tune. It's a power ballad. The only drawback is that the BGV's in the chorus sound like they're pushed through a tube, making it virtually impossible to reproduce live.

"Coming Home" is an acoustic ballad with a little electric thrown in for effect and a nice pre-chorus set-up. "My Love" is the Scorpions/melodic metal style ballad that finally finds the band delivering a kick-butt ballad. Put this on the radio and watch it climb the charts! The lead solo shows Rex making his guitar sing. Ahh, it's so pretty!

"I'm Asking You Today" is a nice classical guitar-based ballad, but it is the third ballad in a row on the CD! What a lull in the action! You're better served by hitting "Random Play" on your CD player. "Gonna Keep On" is another Petra-like song, propelled along with acoustic back-up. It gets a bit bluesy halfway through. The album ends on a high note, with the last two songs being strong tunes: "I Shout" is a sassy R&B groove number that's reminiscent of the "HAMMER AND NAIL" album ("Because of Jesus"); and "Long Road to Walk" is a plodding hard rocker chronicling the Via de la Rosa.

So, when you add it all up, Whitecross comes out ahead (6 to 5) on its fifth album.

--DV

SACRAMENT "HAUNTS OF VIOLENCE"

R.E.X.

Yes, Sacrament shows they have a very credible sound and talent. This is a very cool thrash album with some intense vocals (that are understandable this time!). New vocalist Rob Wolfe reminds me of a cross between Paul D'Anno (ex-Iron Maiden) and ex-Sacramenter Mike Tyrone.

The title track starts the album with an exciting representation of things to come, with relentless aural attacks. Guitarist Mike DiDonato achieved a nice big crunch on every track and spits out some killer leads in the title track. "Souls In Torment," my favorite tune on the album, is a very intense cut that oozes with power. Hats off to Rob for an excellent delivery on the chorus. Another awesome tune is "Carry the Corpse," a heavy groovin' mosh tune. I hate to get trivial or trite, but this is a real headbanger album.

This disc reminds me of the early days of Christian metal: You had some happy hard rock, and then you had the doomy sounds of bands like Saint, who focused on the morbid side of judgement and death. They came off with an attitude that matched much of the darker metal in the world. This material also seems a bit angry at times--and has just the right amount of (righteous?) anger in the lyrics.

As a follow-up to "TESTIMONY OF APOCALYPSE," Sacrament has outdone themselves. This album is rock solid and stands up to the company of Believer, Vengeance, Deliverance and Tourniquet (who all stand up to anybody--Metallica, Slayer, whoever). For those who dismissed Sacrament's debut album due to the grunt/growl vocals, the time has come to taste the new and improved Sacrament. They've never sounded better.

--SN

VENI DOMINE "FALL BABYLON FALL"

R.E.X.

This album is a pleasant surprise imported from Sweden via R.E.X. With little to no advance buzz coming out before this album (save for a little bit of talk from friends in Sweden), Veni Domine became an instant "new face." The band shreds. "FALL BABYLON FALL" is a concept album. The band shreds. The story line takes the listener from the introduction of the deceiver of mankind to the judgement and destruction of earth. The band shreds. Most all the songs are of the 7 minutes in length variety. The band shreds. The music here is another project that takes the heaviness of Iron Maiden and mixes it with the operatic vocals and dynamic sounds of Queensryche (like Sacred Warrior and Haven). The band shreds. In fact, this similarity to the fore-mentioned bands is Veni Domine's only weak point. The band shreds.

The lyrics are taken almost entirely from the Bible--specifically the book of Revelation. The band shreds. Taking 7-minute swaths at songs is a risky venture, but Veni Domine don't let you down or get bored with excess. The band shreds. "Wisdom Calls" is a standout, with its Proverbs (1-4) simplicity acting as a call from God's heart. The band shreds. When I first saw Veni Domine advertised in these pages, I thought it might be another industrial project similar to Circle of Dust--Boy, was I wrong. The band shreds. Did I tell you this band shreds?

--DV

NOISY LITTLE SUNBEAMS

Benson

The first few times I heard this album, I suffered the disappointment blues. It was hyped as a Red Hot Chili Peppers type project (and it isn't), plus the sonic levels on the CD (usually high and clean) were low and muddy (remember the sonic quality on the vast majority of the Pure Metal albums circa 1986 to 1989?). After several more listens, the grooves come to life in a bigger way. This album is a good party rock album. It's fun and it's rockin'.

The first two cuts, "Bad Attitude" and "Kids Wanna Rock" are the best. "Bad Attitude" carries a funky groove that's very hooky. "Kids Wanna Rock" is your big, AC/DC anthemic tune. It's got that attitude, you know? There's three other rockers--"Turn or Burn," "Money in Your Pocket" and "They're Knockin'"--which all have one thing in common: big BGV's. There's plenty (too much, if you ask me) of pop rock here, with tunes like "Wanna See the Day" which sounds just like Vector, "Always in Heaven," "Do You Want It" (about AIDS) and "Live Forever," which features a giant Led Zeppelin

blatant rip-off (can you say "When The Levee Breaks?").

The lyrics here are as funny and witty as anything I've seen in Christian music. "Turn or Burn" blasts Madonna in a serious way: "If only you could sing just a little in tune/You wouldn't have to wear that bra." "They're Knockin'" is a hilarious tune about Mormon missionaries: "They're just young kids straight out of school/They can't date babes or go to swimming pools/They only get to call their moms twice a year/They spread Mormon lies like volunteers...They don't like big dogs or security guards/And I know they hate sprinklers that are sittin' in yards."

--DV

MORTIFICATION (Video) "GRIND PLANETS"

Nuclear Blast

This custom video, which has been picked up by Nuclear Blast Records in Germany, may also soon be distributed in the States by Frontline. These three Aussies grind out some pretty cool conceptual videos. The tape starts with a hilarious intro, and has a title "page" for every video, along with a quote of "wisdom" (like the "KING'S X CHRONICLES"). "Terminate Damnation" starts things with tons of cool footage: stage diving audiences, the band performing live, the band outdoors and inside an ornate marble fountain inlay (like the inside of a silo); and editing to keep things fast, in color, black & white, reversed (like a photo negative) and under stroboscopic action. This could air on late-night MTV Headbanger's Ball (I've seen worse on there).

The spaces in between songs are spiced up with personal appearances. Steve Rowe gives the viewer a "tour" of the Mortification "tour bus" (a van) as he spoofs Robert Sweet's I-Roc Z (Camero) scene on the "IN THE BEGINNING" video. Almost every "Grind Planets On Tour" segment spoofs at least one of the Stryper character profiles. "Turn" appears second with tons of stroboscopic action and reverse imaging. It lasts all of 15 seconds or so. "Until the End" is next with lots of footage in a small studio, where they're often superimposed over one another, spliced with footage on a burned out hill with wicked storm clouds overhead. Steve handles a Boa Constrictor in this one. Ooh!

"The Destroyer Beholds," along with many of the other songs from the debut album, were previously featured on the last video package from these guys--"METAL MISSIONARIES"--yet this one is in stereo and improved. "Raise the Chalice" has something never before done in Christian video (save for the "Do Something Now" vid): the band taking communion. Very cool.

"Satan's Doom" features some very wild effects similar to the first Mortification album cover (the banned one), where the guys'

WAKE UP! TIME TO DIE!

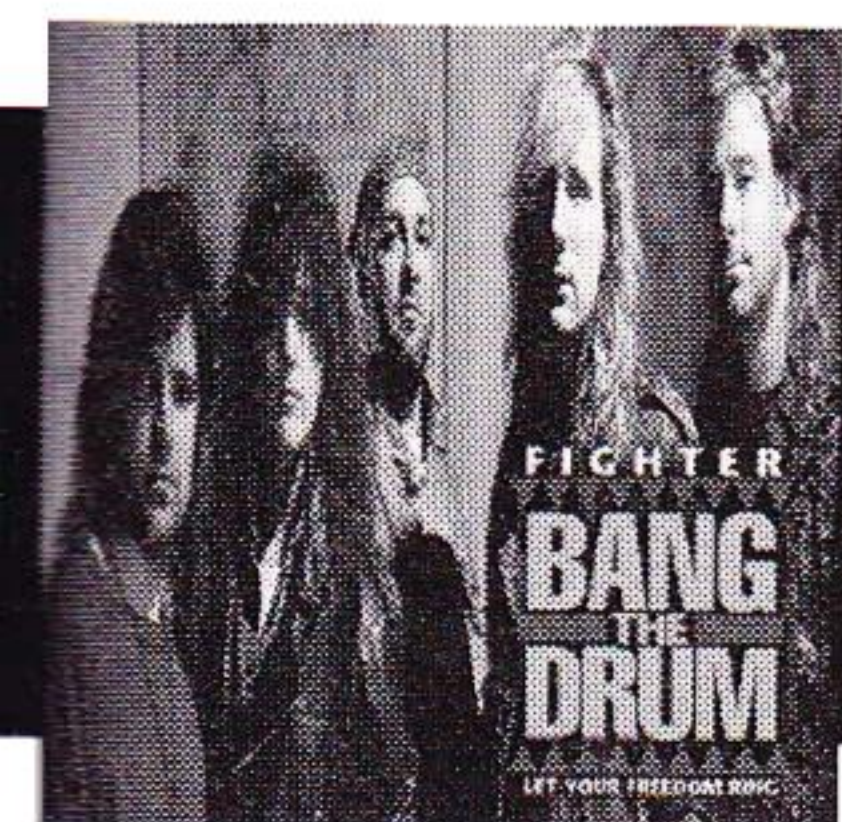
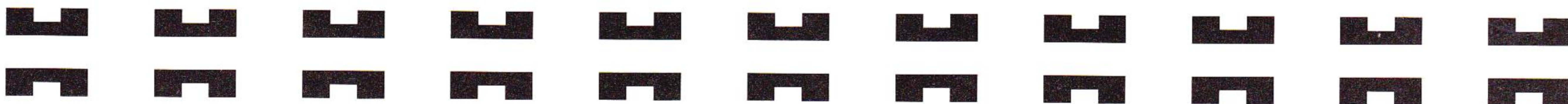
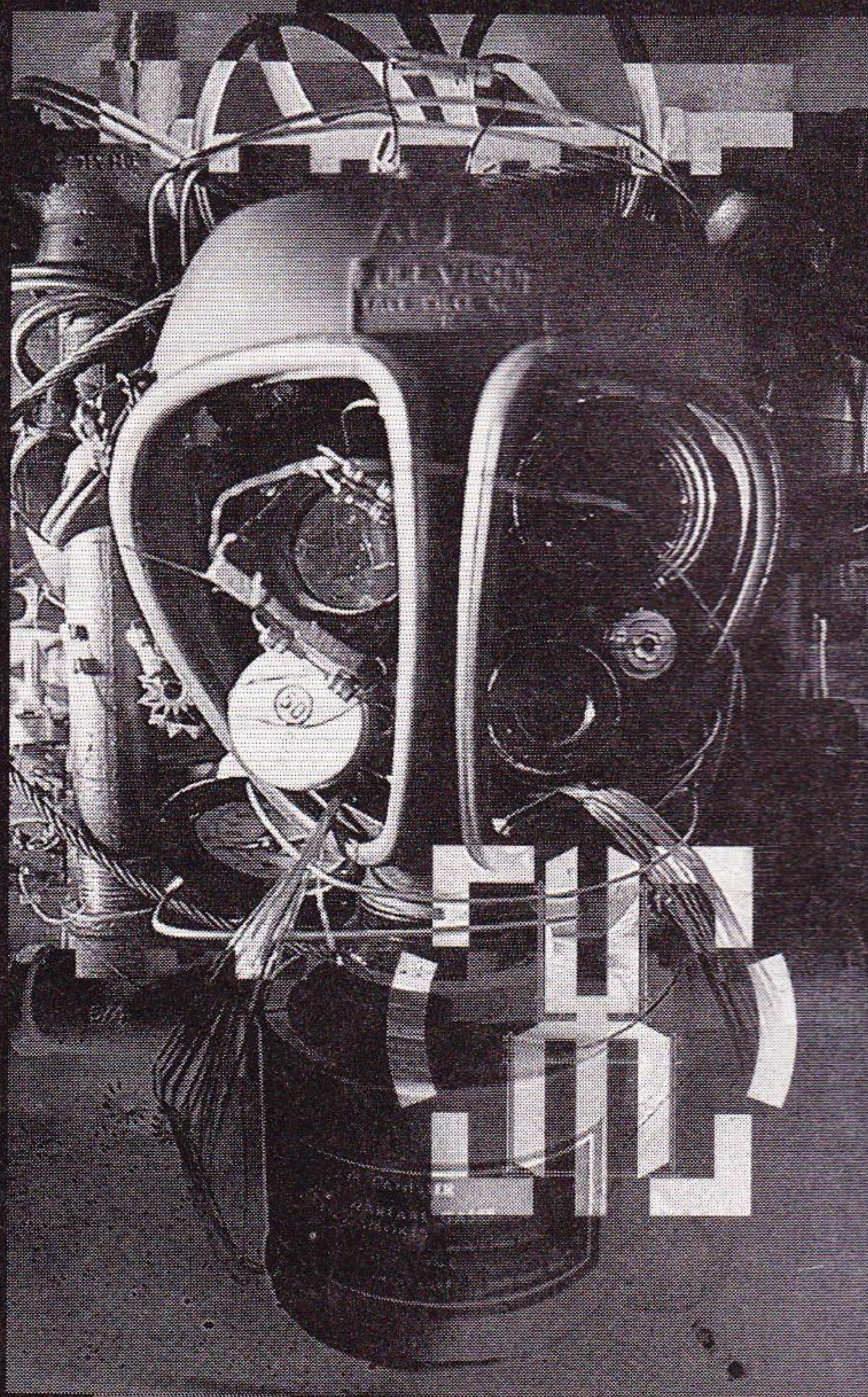


POP, DANCE AND THRASH FUSED INTO A SINGULAR,
GLORIOUS CYBERNETIC APOCALYPSO!

FEATURING THE GUITAR PLAYING OF "BELIEVERS" KURT BACHMAN

UNDER MIDNIGHT

LOOK FOR THE CYBERNETIC REMIXES
99¢ CASSETTE SINGLE WITH COUPON GOOD FOR 99¢
OFF OF THE UNDER MIDNIGHT CD OR CASSETTE!



A DECLARATION OF FAITH, A FOUNDATION OF FREEDOM,
ELEVEN SONGS OF PASSION AND LIBERTY.

FIGHTER

BANG THE DRUM

SHOWCASING THE SIGNATURE GUITARS OF BILLY HELLER AND THE
TWIN MONSTER VOCALS FROM AMY WOLTER AND SEAN MURPHY

FIGHTER

BANG
THE
DRUM

LET YOUR FREEDOM RING



MODERN GUITAR POP AT ITS BEST. #1 ROCK SINGLE "FREE LOVE". #1 ROCK CD - PURE
ROCK REPORT

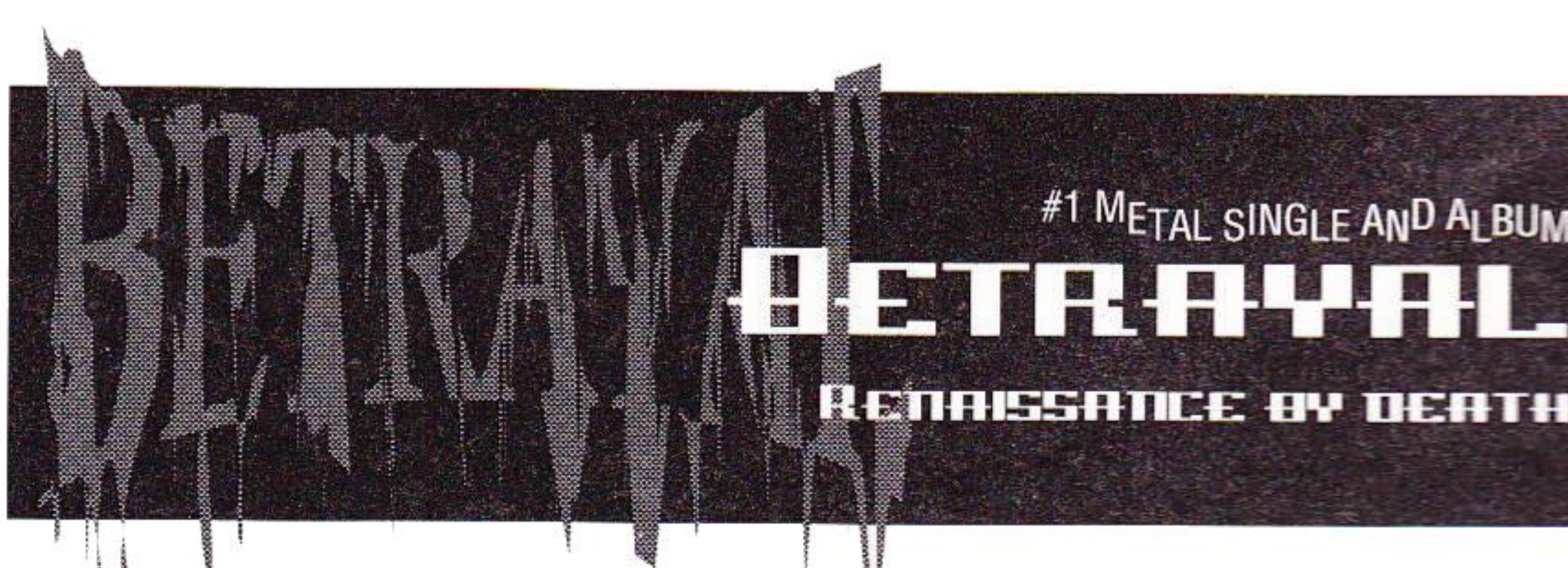
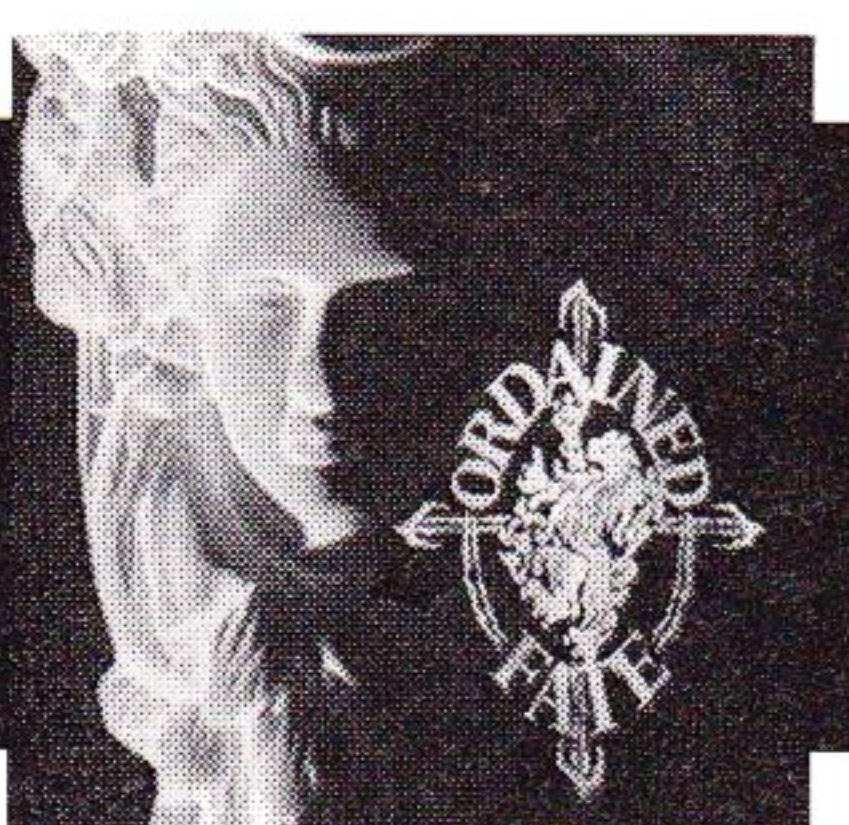
THE STAND

IN THREE DAYS

LOOK FOR THE "FREE LOVE" VIDEO ON CCM TV, LIGHT MUSIC, SOLID ROCK VIDEO AND
OTHER CHRISTIAN VIDEO OUTLETS!



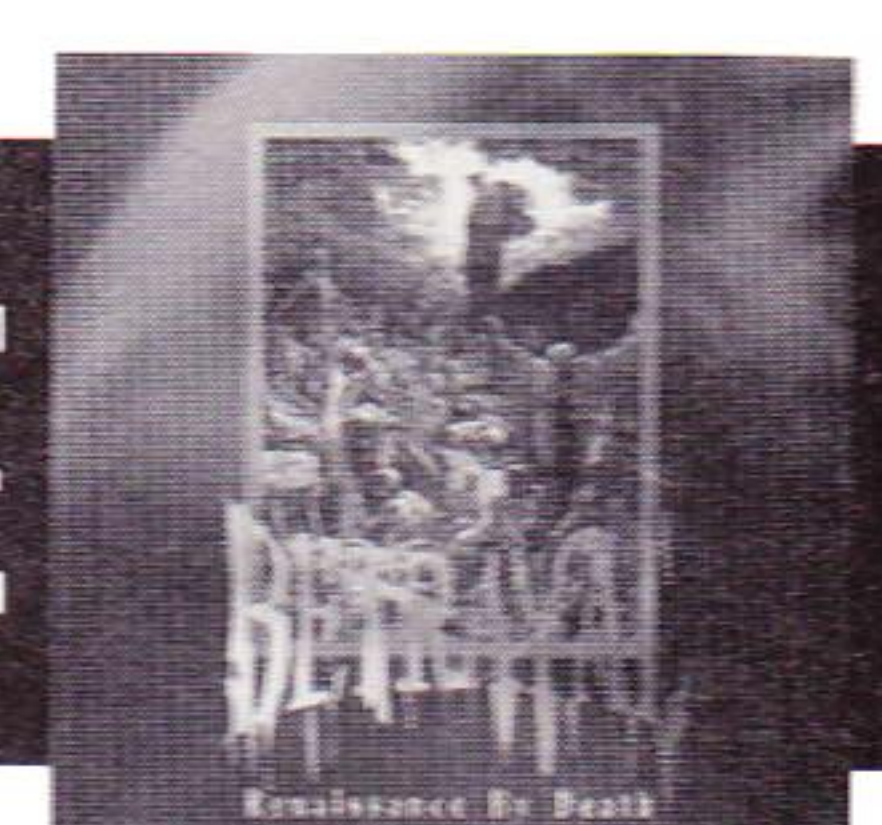
GOthic POWER THRASH OF THE HIGHEST COMMON DENOMINATOR, FROM AN
ORDAINED FATE
UNCOMMONLY GREAT NEW BAND



#1 METAL SINGLE AND ALBUM

BETRAYAL

RENAISSANCE BY DEATH



310 EAST CHICAGO STREET « ELGIN *WONDERLAND* « IL « 60120 « TELE/ 708 « 695 « 0711

heads are all warped and screaming. The last video clip, "The Majestic Infiltration of Order," has some hilarious animated lips and eyes drawn on stills of Steve Rowe as he sings. It's a scream!

To sum it all up: This ain't no cheesy homemade video. It's high-quality stuff that fits the death metal genre very well. Mortification fans will absolutely love it! The only part that gets cheesy is the tour of the hotel they stayed at in Brisbane. Besides this, the only other big criticism is that filming so many conceptual videos (8), you tend to run out of special effects and ideas, so you'll see similarities pop up now and again.

It may take awhile for this to become available in the States. Ordering directly from the band may get it to you quicker. Write: PO Box 339, Mantone, Victoria, 3194 Australia.

--DV

LIAISON "HARD HITTER"

Intense

Okay, the heavyweight hype on this disc was that Liaison was ditching its keyboard fluff pop foundation for a rock solid guitar-wailin' base. I thought, "Okay, sock it to me!" The knockout punch I was expecting had some real strength behind it, but nothing heavier than Whiteheart. The ballad count is two.

"Attitude" has nice and strong guitar tones, but the vocal production sounds like the Idle Cure style of delivery. "Wicked Ways" is the standout cut, in my opinion, taking a haunting Def Leppard approach with some minor chords.

Liaison punches its way to a positive review here in HM, but they'll need to sweat the Whiteheart/Idle Cure similarities out of their system to get a heavy rockin' audience to bang their heads--yet I wouldn't be ashamed to have someone walk into the HM offices while this was cranked. Besides, do you know who plays on this record? Just a few notables, such as: Greg Bissonette (David Lee Roth & Joe Satriani bands), Tony Palacios, Lanny Cordola and Oz Fox. Take notice of this album. Let it go a few rounds with your ears.

--DV

LARRY HOWARD "C-STONE BLUES JAM"

ForeFront

Here's a 17-song collection of a live blues/Gospel jam recorded at C-Stone '92. A few of the tunes will interest those headbangers with diverse interests. Some gritty blues are kicked out in "Love Will Make You Change Your Ways," "Evangelistic Blues" (with Darrell Mansfield accompanying on harmonica) and "Judgement Day Blues" (by Mark Farner), which is probably the heaviest

tune here. The former Grand Funk Railroader makes a couple more appearances with Mr. Howard, including "Some Kind of Wonderful" with Margaret Becker on vocals.

The most interesting tune is Guardian's appearance with an electrified version of "Take Up Your Cross." Tony Palacios' guitar tone is superb and authentic slide blues guitar.

The majority of tunes here would not interest even the most open-minded metalhead, unless he's had a few rivets knocked out in the moshpit. Most of it's hardcore black Gospel, like Jessy Dixon's snappy rendition of "Operator."

There ain't no metal here, but some of this stuff does jam. It's labeled "Volume One," so maybe next year's jam will include Bride.

--SN

CRAIG ERICKSON "ROADHOUSE STOMP"

Shrapnel

Craig's debut blues album is an 11-song collection of truly hot, authentic blues a la Stevie Ray that was produced by Mike Varney of Shrapnel Records (whose roster has included Tony MacAlpine and Vinnie Moore). One big difference between this project and several other of Shrapnel's guitar hero albums is that: One, this one's blues and not neo-classical riff-blazing metal; and Two, the tunes here are real songs with real vocals.

Although not an up-front evangelistic album, per se, these tunes have lots of allegories and metaphorical imagery about the challenge of living in this world as a believer. The thing I like best about the sounds of Erickson's blues is that it's spiced with Southern boogie rock.

--DV

CRASHDOG "THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS"

Grrr/Ocean

Here's some more rousing punk with fast-paced, urgent preaching at the top of Spike Nard's lungs--and righteous preaching it is. Crashdog expounds on the value-less virtues of American yuppie society, with its focus of getting ahead and accumulating worldly goods. The cover art says it all.

Musically, it's influenced by REZ, more so than the "HUMANE SOCIETY" album. There's lots of melodic jamming, like in "Who?" a la the non-feedbacking Jimi Hendrix. There's plenty of grunge sound. Some of the early British punk is reflected here, yet the hate-filled anger of those secular bands is missing here (wonder why?). I kinda like "HUMANE SOCIETY" better, but this album ain't wimpy at all.

--SN

THE SEVENTY SEVENS

Brainstorm

The first cut off the new 77's album (their second self-titled effort) shows that this disc is going in a slightly new direction. The hard-edged blues guitar a la Hendrix riffs make this direction change obvious within the first 10 seconds of "Woody," which later shows that Mike Roe and Co. have definitely spent a few hours listening to Led Zeppelin records. "Smiley Smile," "Holy Hold" and "Phony Eyes" show that the band hasn't abandoned its older pop-oriented alternative leanings, though. Heavy alternative music lovers will dig the wah guitar work on "Deep End."

Besides "Woody," the most memorable cut is the one with the censor bar on the back cover (because the name of the song is really "Pray Naked"). It starts off with an answering machine message translating the Hindu dialect of the song title. This song is a fun-sounding probe into praying without pretense--praying naked.

While not a metal band by any stretch of the imagination, The 77's are definitely one of the heavier acts in Christian alternative music. One thing they always create is quality music. This album is no exception, yet it's not as consistent as the band's potential.

--SN

DRY BONES

This custom tape by the band that vocalist Rob Wolfe is looking to join has some great crunchin' tunes with slow, Crucified-like hooks and chugga-chugga bass lines. The three songs here have some excellent drumming that's as hard-hitting as the lyrics on racism and judgmentalism. Like Rob mentioned in this issue's Sacramento story, this music definitely fits in with what's going on today. Fans of early Crucified will love this stuff.

For ordering info, send a SASE to: PO Box 773, Manchester NH 03105.

--DV

ACM JOURNAL DISC #3

Another fine disc from the ACM Journal, this one commemorates the end of their fine coverage of rad Christian music (The editors are going to devote their talents to other Christian publications around the country).

The heavy rock here is represented by punksters Three Nails (with "Sex Sells" and "The Fall") and Modest Attraction--a big league swat at the commercial metal genre a la Europe/Bon Jovi that is produced well. In fact, the entire disc has great sonics. The Modest Attraction cut, "Action," was also featured on one of the band's earlier demos (reviewed in HM #36).

For those into the grunge sound, there's plenty to enjoy here, with: Hunting

FREE COMPACT DISC FROM BROKEN RECORDS

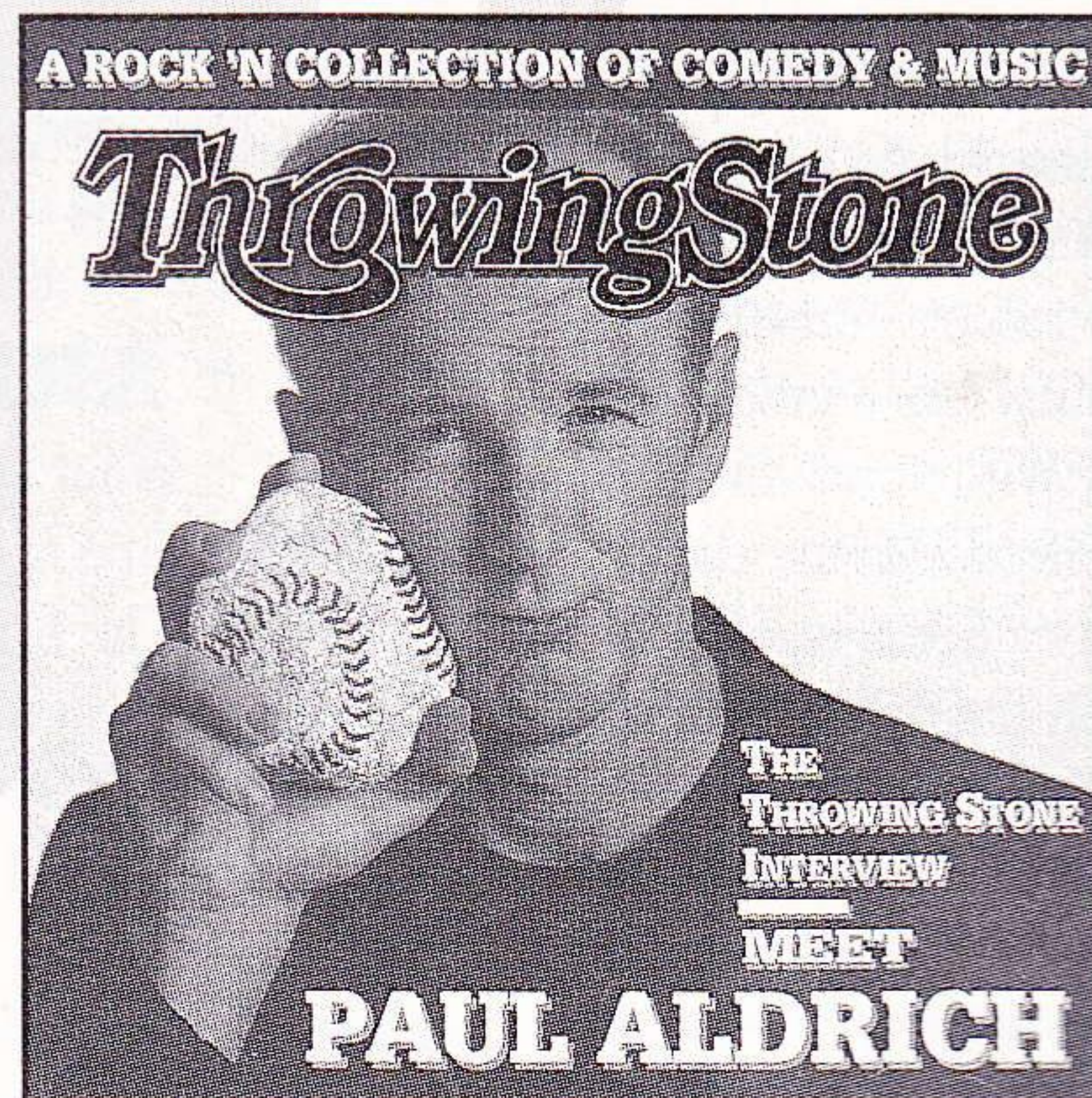
NEW RELEASES!

HUMAN CONDITION



ALTERNATIVE / ROCK

PAUL ALDRICH



COMEDY

ACT TODAY!

OFFER GOOD WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

Yes! Send me a free sampler CD from BROKEN RECORDS.

I want to hear:
(Choose one)

☐ **PAUL ALDRICH:**

A Rockin' Collection of Comedy & Music

☐ **HUMAN CONDITION:**

Alternative, Tech-Rock at its best.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail this coupon to: Broken Records, PO Box 30702, Laguna Hills, CA 92654-0702.

Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of your free CD. Offer good while supplies last. Offer good in the U. S. only.



Man, Waterfront, Cornerstone (the heaviest of this style), The Happy Jerks and Blenderhead.

This sampler is a better cross-section of alternative music than you'll find on any major label release. To order, send \$5.00 to: ACM Journal, 7910 37th Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98126.

--DV

PEACEMAKER

What a wonderful surprise! This self-titled, four-song demo shows the band's great musical potential. These guys give you good songs, good music and a good time; yet with a serious intent.

The first song, "**Stand and Deliver**," is the most commercial rock song on the demo (meaning that it is the most well-rounded song musically and lyrically; yet it remains enjoyable). "**Searching for Reality**" offers the best lyrics on the demo, plus an excellent display of musical variety--although the transitions between styles and modes could be a bit smoother. "**Wake Up**" is the heaviest song represented here, and it reinforces the musical diversity of the band. To close out the demo, Peacemaker demonstrates their lyrical diversity with "**Real Love**," a story song about a girl who is disillusioned with her family life (to say the least).

This band is genuinely refreshing! It's not that they are necessarily on the forefront of music, but they do what they do well. As a band, they are catchy and truly listen-able. The lead vocalist has a great voice and a lot of potential that, with voice lessons, practice, age, and a little more attitude could actually distinguish him as a heavyweight vocal contender. Although the overall sound mix could have improved, the variety of rhythms, emotion, musical feel and presentation represented by this four-song effort make it well worth the \$5 to give it a try.

To order, send \$5 to: 1234 Neptune, Cedar Hill TX 75104.

--Camille Bresie

Qodesh

What can you say about this five-song effort? There is so much going on that it's hard to know where to start. These guys definitely know a variety of musical styles, but there is a big responsibility in displaying such diversity and it's too easy to be a jack-of-all-trades yet master of none.

"**Dead in California**" starts off the tape with a great little funky groove; however, about a quarter of the way into the song, they change to a sort of technical metal mode and continue switching back and forth between the styles throughout the song--and the transition does not come off as well as it should have. Within the next song, "**The Changing**," Qodesh introduces yet another element of musical style--King's X style BGV harmonies--and they continue trying to squeeze in different

musical styles. "**1492**" is entertaining enough until the band incorporates a King's X rip-off during the vocal break. Up to this point, it is like Fate's Warning meets King's X with a side of Extreme.

"**Here Am I**" has great song potential and the guys get a really good funky thing working in this song. The last song, "**I Give In**," is the best all-around song on the tape. It is a great acoustic, ballad-like song with great lyrics, and it even shows the folksy musical side of this band.

These guys have great potential as a band. They just need to stop trying to prove their musical variability and get rid of the incongruous musical styles. They do have a good musical thing working! Also, they should probably stay away from imitating King's X. With their talent, they can accomplish something similar in style, but "as is" they will constantly suffer an unfavorable comparison to King's X. Kevin Thornton is a talented bass player and they should utilize that ability and capitalize on the funky, groovin' style that they do so well. Musically, the guys in Qodesh have a lot of good things going for them and, with a little refining and trimming down, they could make an impact with their appealing and musically viable style. These guys are definitely worth checking out.

To order, send \$5 (plus \$2 postage) to: PO Box 23098, Evansville IN 47724.

--CB

ARBITRAGE

What an ambitious effort by one guy! This tape is definitely one full of surprises! The first song, "**Failure**," starts off the tape with an industrial feel and, throughout the tape's progression, the style changes to a heavy metal/death metal feel. "**Failure**" has a good concept, but it falls a bit short of its potential. Most industrial-type songs are based on a balance of monotony and change, and he does not always choose the best route to accomplish this musical necessity.

All eight songs have outstanding lyrics! However, the vocal variation leaves something to be desired (since the style is essentially the same rhythms from song to song--just either fast or slow). Since these lyrics are so well-written, the songs would benefit from a more presentable and pleasing vocal presentation; whereas now the music doesn't live up to the lyrical quality. A few of the vocal problems could be solved with a better mix; but, unfortunately, a good mix is often hard to find in such efforts.

Something has to be said for this one-man effort. He sets forth to do something that just isn't done: a 24 minute song. He even maintains good lyrics throughout the song and manages to use words like "preponderant" correctly! The effort is noble and actually comes off pretty well, but there are fairly high expectations for a 24 minute song and he had a

lot to prove.

"**THE HEALING POWER OF DEATH**" is a magnificent title and the total effort has a wonderful concept. With songs like "**Guillotine**" and "**I/O Error**," his songwriting ability becomes entirely evident. The lyrics are unmistakably impressive! With maturity and a greater focus, this guy could turn his potential into excellent hardcore metal music.

To order, send \$5 to: 1319 Front St, Lynden WA 98264.

--Chanel Bleaux

NINTHOUR

Hailing from Sarasota, Florida comes America's answer to Mortification--Ninthour. "**BEHOLD THE MAN**" is a very strong effort from this four-member band. The three songs on this tape show off the versatility of this talented group.

The first song, "**In Context**," is a good tune referring to the topic of Bible study and using Scripture in its proper context. "**Aborticide**" compares abortion to the mass genocide of the Nazi death camps. "Gas chambers now the wombs of death/Doctor's office a concentration camp." Very thought-provoking lyrics. The last song, "**Torn in Two**," refers to Christ's death on the cross.

Vocalist Justin Holcomb sounds just like Steve Rowe (Mortification). Guitarist Jim Davis is very talented--going from the mellow beginning of "**Torn in Two**" to high speed thrash. Bassist Chris Thostenson and drummer Bryan Malaspina round out this band, which is best described as thrash/death metal. Great debut...can't wait to hear more.

To order, send \$6 to: Duane Guengerich, 4555 McIntosh Ln, Sarasota FL 34232.

--Jeff Lott

FLESHWALKER

From Australia comes a very young, but very talented band called Fleshwalker (not the ones from Canada reviewed in HM #31). Young indeed--guitarist Rohan Edwards and drummer Matthew Aitchison are only 16, while the "old" man of the band, bassist Alan Treguning, is only 20. The second surprise is the fact that all three members just started playing their instruments since the beginning of '91.

Their music is self-described as "groovy grindcore." Their six-song demo was recorded live while opening for Mortification in October. There are two singers in this band, one who sounds like Steve Rowe, the other like Roger Martinez. The music is very good, high speed riffing and double bass mama that is typical of thrash. This band is hot! Get this tape before it is no longer available.

For ordering info, write: 12 Nanda Place, Waramanga, A.C.T. 2611, Australia.

--JL



DELIVERANCE A RIP OFF?

I don't know what to do. I can't reach one of my fav. bands--Deliverance. I wrote them at PO Box 283, Fallbrook, CA 92029 and I got back my letter saying that no one by the name of Deliverance has that address. Could you help me out?

--Kevin Schwarze

Melrose Park, Illinois

(Ed--You aren't the only one who feels frustrated trying to get a hold of Deliverance or their merchandise. For those others wondering, NO, JIMMY BROWN has not ripped you off! The merchandise used to be handled by someone else at the Fallbrook address, but this person is no longer handling any of the Deliverance merchandise. It is all being handled personally by Jimmy Brown. To reach him, write: 13720 Regentview, Bellflower, CA 90706.)

PRAISE GOD

I just want to say thank you. If it wasn't for your magazine, I wouldn't have ever set foot in a church. I really like the way you guys write about God. It makes it easier to understand what He did for us. Keep up the great work. Oh, and thanks for introducing me to a new Friend.

--Martin Duarte

Valinda, California

HM MAIL ORDER

I have written several bands, enclosing international reply coupons, but have heard nothing. I am interested in purchasing band merchandise. Do you think it possible for Heaven's Metal to stock band merchandise for people like me to order via your magazine? I am not the only one who is after a bit of merchandise. I am writing on many people's behalf.

--Mark Scott

Melksham, England

(Ed--Charles Gates has started a Heaven's Metal-sponsored mail-order business here in Austin, Texas. As you may have seen in ads, they are carrying some band merchandise. CMG will carry a limited number of bands' merchandise, because they have vowed only to advertise merchandise only after they actually have it in their hands--to avoid delays and back-orders, etc. Most of the bands out there, though, are pretty good about fulfilling

your orders for merchandise. Other mail order companies that carry tapes and CD's and are very reliable and have been around for a few years and who have a physical store, plus phone numbers for follow-up are: True Tunes, 210 West Front St, Wheaton, IL 60187; and Long's Christian Music, PO Box 547336, Orlando, FL 32854-7336.)

HI FROM GARY CHERONE

Last night I had the chance to meet Extreme at a record store outside of Boston. I asked Gary Cherone (the singer) if he remembered you interviewing him. He said, "I remember having a real nice conversation with him." He also told me to say "Hi" to you and that he hopes to see you again. I then told him that I appreciated the article, as well as the song "Watching, Waiting" from their first album. I think that really touched him (By the look on his face, it looked like he wants to be a full-fledged Christian, but something is holding him back). So please pray for him. I think that he'll make it. He told me as I was leaving to listen to the last few songs on their new tape. It turns out they are about Jesus and God. It's awesome. Doug, your "What So and So Sez" column is making impact. Please keep it up. I find the balance of your witness to be excellent. God has given you wisdom. I'm praying for you also!

--Glenn Jackson

Boston, Massachusetts

WHAT I SEZ

I want to encourage you for your brilliant creation of "What So and So Sez." I've read in past issues that some readers don't feel that secular bands should be getting any coverage; however, when one reads comments like Bobby Ellsworth's in Issue #35, "This is probably the heaviest interview I think I've ever done," the motivation behind these interviews can clearly be seen! It is not necessarily to make unsaved interviewees squirm as the Holy Spirit pierces their heart, albeit a delightful aspect. The purpose (as Doug mentioned) is to let HM readers know where the bands are coming from philosophically and theologically; but it also serves as a great outline on how to start a conversation about Christ, and present the awesome message of the Gospel without appearing to be

thrusting the K.J.V. "54 lb. Get Saved OR ELSE" Bible over someone's head. A good book on the topic of evangelism is Becky Pippert's Out of the Saltshaker and Into the World (IVP, 1979).

So, to the folks at HM, thanks for the model we can use as we fulfill Jesus' last command in Matthew, and may God bless you mightily for the courage and commitment you yourselves demonstrate while bringing the Word to those who might not otherwise hear it.

--Ross Perkins

Lynchburg, Virginia

LETTERS TO WHO?

Why is so much of the letters page taken up with accusations? I haven't seen any of the people who shred you all and your ministry come up with any alternatives to solve your "sin problems." Kind of irks me. We all screw up, and confrontation is good, but why so much fuss on things that don't really matter?

For example, the guys who laid into Tourniquet for playing somewhere where alcohol was being served? Excuse me for just a moment. As Mr. Editor said so well with Scripture, let me give an illustration: Have you ever heard of abiogenesis? It was an old, incredibly unfounded "scientific" theory that life could come from nonliving matter (flies and rats from garbage, etc.). Some Christians still seem to believe in this theory. They believe that the church can reach people and incorporate them into the body of Christ without ever coming into contact with the world. Without reproduction of living things, physical life cannot come from dead physical matter; without interaction on the part of the church, spiritual life cannot come from dead spiritual matter (the world).

Granted, there needs to be a balance. One cannot steep himself in the world and still claim to be a Christian. On the other hand, one also cannot hold himself aloof from the mass of humanity and try to keep his salvation an exclusive item for him alone.

As for these guys who will "pray for you to fail," I have nothing but sympathy. Sorry, people. I see nowhere in the Bible that God instructs us to pray for the destruction of one another and the ministries thereof. Get a perspective! God calls us to love each other, and to lift each other up in prayer. I don't really think prayers of imminent destruction are included in this statement.

God calls us to help each other and, believe it or not, I think I'm starting to understand that purpose now. I think it has quite a bit to do with one word: Tolerance (of ignorance--see Living Sacrifice's debut album). If I can't tolerate those with whom I'm going to spend eternity with, I'm not going to have much luck loving unbelievers into Heaven.

--Charles Mercer

Wichita, Kansas

MIDNIGHT HOUR

Midnight Hour has put together a tape best described as commercial party rock. "FIRE IN THE SKY," their five-song demo, is a really good introduction from this band from Omaha, Nebraska.

All of the songs, except for "This One's For The Children," are of the commercial metal vein. "Children" is a mellow tear-jerker that could easily be put on the radio and surprise a lot of people.

Vocalist Ed Rutledge at times reminds me of Vince Neil (ex-Motley Crue). Guitarist Darren Mill, a graduate from G.I.T., really shows that he learned something while there. He's hot!

Overall, a great effort from a very promising band. To order, send \$6 (plus \$2.50 postage) to: Moonlite Music Promotions, 3008 S. 126th Plaza, Suite 52, Omaha NE 68144.

--JL

NEHEMIAH

Reviewing this tape was very hard to do. Don't get me wrong, Nehemiah is an extremely talented band. The problem was that they aren't metal at all. The best way to describe them is...think of some of Whiteheart's harder edge tunes and you have Nehemiah (Maybe that explains why ex-bassist Anthony Sallee is in Whiteheart now).

On this four-song demo, you have quality: good vocals, strong lyrics and great musicianship. Three tunes sound like Whiteheart's rockin' tunes without that guitar crunch, and the one soft tune, "The Way It Should Be," sounds like something Whiteheart would get a hit off of.

In a letter, guitarist Steve Lockridge said they are changing their style to more like Guardian or Bride... If that's the case, their next tape could blow the walls down. But, for now, all I feel is a really strong breeze.

For ordering info, write: 2502 Barbara Lane, Lavaca AR 72941.

--JL

CROWN OF THORNS

As soon as you hear the chatter and spoken intro to this live tape of a gig in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., you get the feeling that you're in for a homemade project of garage-level metal. Guess what? Crown of Thorns delivers up to these expectations with these seven tunes (recorded with the condenser mike of a video camera).

There is plenty of aggressive noise and crunch coming from the rhythm section of bassist Jeff Holdaway, drummer Matt McNally and guitarist Steve Siler and Sean McNally; yet the strained vocals of Jeff Holdaway attempt to soar at the tried and (dead and buried) high range of Geddy Lee's early Rush days and that mid-80's glam metal phase.

To order, send \$4 to: Sean

McNally, 16 Aquia Ave, Stafford VA 22554.

--DV

BATTLEFRONT

Here's a one-song single displaying a garage thrash power metal sound. The riffs are a bit tired here, but the overall effect is tough. The rhythms are very tight in places, mixing some good rests and fast runs. The BGV gang chants are put to good effect. The only thing holding this song back is the cheesy guitar tone on the fast solos and the sonic quality of vocalist Dan Davis. Three years ago this song would stand out quite a bit, but 3,000 thrash bands later it simply reaches the competent stage. Battlefront's worth keeping an ear on. To order, send \$2.00 (plus \$1.50 postage) to: Dan Stanton, 1593 Sawyer Rd, Traverse City MI 49684. (DV)

MEL BOOKER

Here's a custom collection of six tunes of funky hard rock from one of the former guitarists of Seventh Seal. The first thing noticed, unfortunately, is the low sound levels on everything. The vocals sound a bit dry, too. The music seems a bit too far retrospective to the days of funk rock and lack the aggression on guitar of modern funk metal-type stuff. Although Mel does come screaming out of his shell at least once a song, it's just nothing very loud. "Don't Make No Sense" sounds very grunge-like, as it looks at drug addiction. "U Boy" is a good song that starts to live up to Mel's potential. It's got a cool, slow 'n' funky groove. It's got a good message about racial bigotry.

To order this first, and somewhat average, taste of Mel's talent, send \$6 to: PO Box 900139, Palmdale CA 93950-0139.

--DV

THUNDER CHILD

This Dallas-based band, who used to be known as R.O.C.K., play a straight-ahead form of power metal. A dying genre, right? Wrong! These guys play it so well and with enough melody and feeling to breathe new life into this tried and true sub-genre of a genre. The first cut here, "The King," is a great worship (at full volume) tune, with declaratory lyrics of "He's the Messiah/He's the King." Great stuff! "Borrowed Time" is another rippin' tune with choice guitar riffs. These guys are good musicians and all these four songs show it. For ordering info, write: Ken Kelly, 710 Simmons, Euless TX 76040.

--DV

BLOOD COVENANT

Side one of this four-song tape features a bad garage mix of a fairly decent Megadeth copy band; and on side two the band does death metal (or changes vocal style). To order, send \$6.50 to: PO Box 103, Pocahontas VA 24635. (SN) HM

Heaven's Metal #39 Page 38

Cool Tunes



WHAT'S ON IT?

"Porno People" by BLAIRING OUT
 "J.I.G." by DELIVERANCE
 "Battle Of The Flesh" by BLOODGOOD
 "Give A Listen" by PARADOX
 "Look To The Future" by GUARDIAN
 "I.Y.F." by BELIEVER
 "Power" by FIRST STRIKE
 "Take You High" by CHARIZMA
 "There Is One" by THE CRY
 "Kingdom Come" by PAUL Q-PEK BAND
 "After The Fall" by LEGEND
 "Sea Of Blood" by KEMPER CRABB
 "Take Me" by NARNIA
 "It Hurts To Be Broken" by THE NATION

14 SONGS FOR ONLY \$8.98!

Send check or M.O. (plus \$1 postage) to:

Heaven's Metal

PO Box 17367

Austin TX 78760-7367

(RETAILERS: Available from Spring Arbor Distributors)

MINISTRY BANDS!!!

Mention this ad for your
FREE subscription to:

ROCK MISSIONARIES
 Forum

Sanctuary's publication
 of ministry and
 encouragement
for serious bands only!

Send band name and address to:

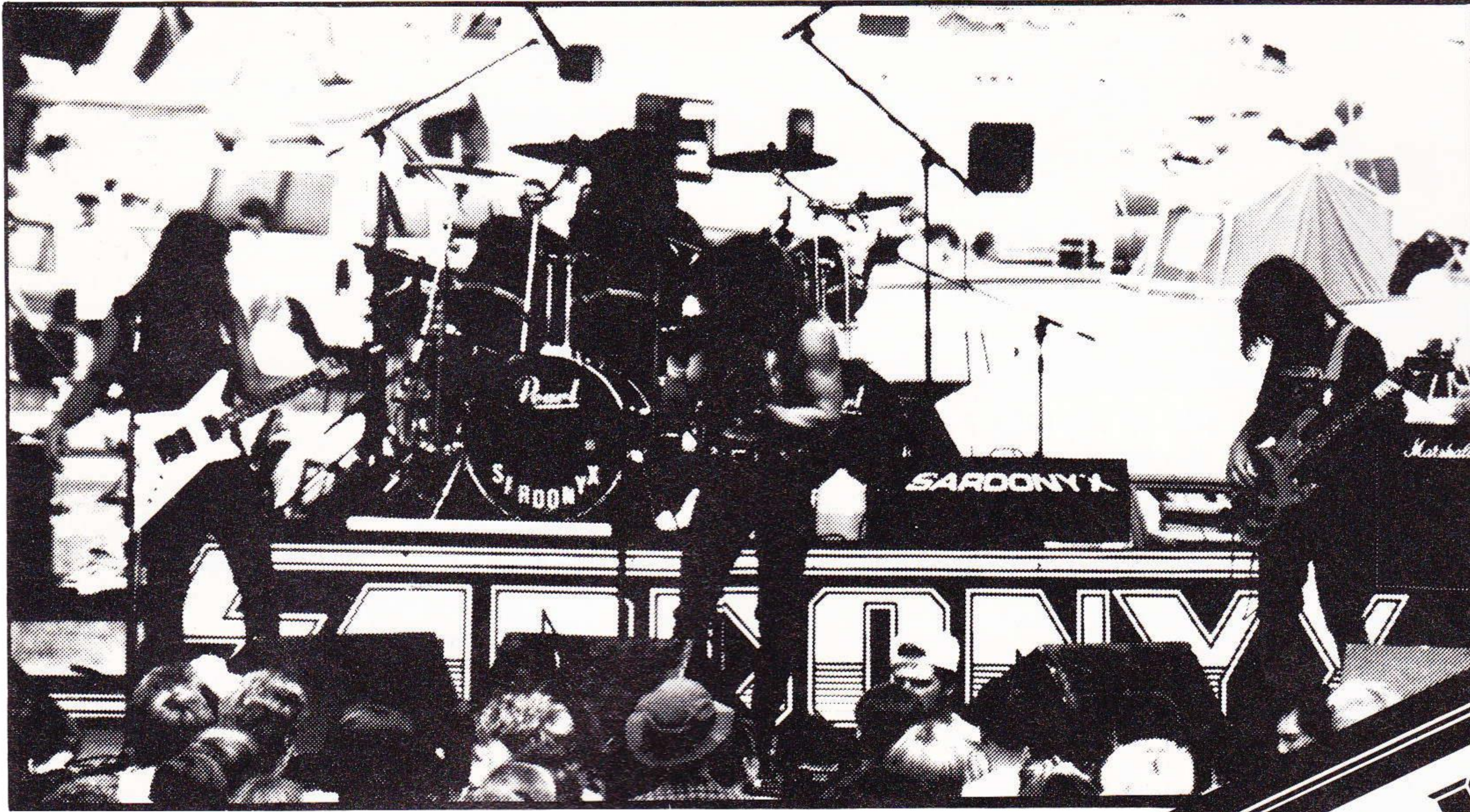
Sanctuary, c/o RMF,

P.O. Box 4130

Redondo Beach, CA

90278-8330

LIVE AT CREATION '92



**1 HOUR
UNCUT
VIDEO**

\$10

PHOTOS FROM CREATION '92

Sardonyx is available for doing shows with a bold message by calling 717-463-3116

SARDONYX
MAJESTIC SERENITY TOUR

★WARNING★
VERY BOLD LYRICS

**CD \$14
TAPE \$10**

MINISTRY SPECIAL



PLEASE SEND NAME, ADDRESS, CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

LIGHTSHINE
P.O. BOX 456
PARADISE, PA 17562

**BUY 5 OR MORE AT
\$5 PER TAPE OR \$9 PER CD**

The gospel is given clearly on majestic serenity. Each song has scripture for almost every line. It is designed to be given away. When ordering, add \$2 per unit for postage and handling. When ordering 5 or more add \$4 total for postage and handling. For foreign orders add \$5 per unit and \$10 for multiple orders.



The Christian And Art

ART AND WORK: PART VI
THE FRUIT OF TALENT: JOY OR WAILING
By Kemper B. Crabb II

This series on art and work's relationship to it was the result of study and meditation on the Parable of the Talents that Christ told, and which St. Matthew recorded in the 25th chapter of his Gospel (Verses 14-30). It seems appropriate that a look at the passage, which gave the original impetus to this study, should also serve as its summary. Because of the length of that parable, and the limited space for this article, I must ask the reader to look it up (gasp!) and read it for himself, so that the following remarks will make sense...(go read it now).

We see several things in this story. First, that God, our Master, gives us our abilities. In fact, our English word talent is derived from and related to the translation of the Greek word talanta, which was a monetary unit in New Testament times worth \$1,000 in silver content (much more in actual buying power). This costly monetary unit came in Western culture to symbolize the even more precious natural abilities and gifts given by God to all men, and gave its name (talent) to those gifts.

Secondly, we see that God does not distribute those talents evenly among men (symbolized by the servants). One servant received five talents, another servant two, and a last one just one talent, "to each according to his own ability," as the Scripture puts it (verse 15). We are not all equally gifted, artistically or otherwise, for God gifts men according to His Own Purposes, though (especially among the Church) the Spirit's Gifts are distributed for the common good (cross reference: 1 Corinthians 12:4-27; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 3:5-10; etc.). We are to use our gifts to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Third, even though God does not distribute His Giftings equally, everyone has

opportunity to improve upon their talents, and cause them to grow, as the servant with five talents and the servant with two talents did in Christ's Parable (verses 16 & 17). Fourth, to develop their talents meant that the two servants who did had to use imagination, learning skills, initiative, and effort. In other words, they had to work to improve their holdings of talents (verses 16 & 17).

Fifth, this development of talents takes time, such as the Master gave the servants when "he went on a journey" (verse 15) returning "after a long time" (verse 19). The servants were expected to use that time to advance their talents. Sixth, the Master graciously let the servants take part in the growth of what was actually His (verse 14), letting His servants act as stewards of the talents, though presumably He didn't need to.

Seventh, the servants were held accountable for what they did with their talents (verses 19-30), and were expected to develop those talents for the Master's Enrichment and Pleasure (verses 21, 23), and were rewarded for tasks "well done," entering into the Master's "joy" for being "good and faithful servants" (verses 21, 23). We artists are to develop our God-given talents to His Glory through diligent work over time as well, that at our accounting, we, too, may be judged servants who have done well.

The alternative is seen in the servant who simply buried his talent (verse 18). When he was called to account, he gave some of the lamest (not to mention stupidest) excuses on record (verses 24-25). The Master responded by calling him what he was: wicked and lazy. The servant was wicked because he let his fear (verse 25) keep him from following the Pattern of his Master's Will, rather than having godly fear that would goad him to obedience (cf. Matthew 10:18; Deuteronomy 6:2; Ecclesiastes 12:13; etc.), and lazy because his wicked ungodly fear of his Master he held more important than obedience, and thus did nothing.

Cont'd on page 46

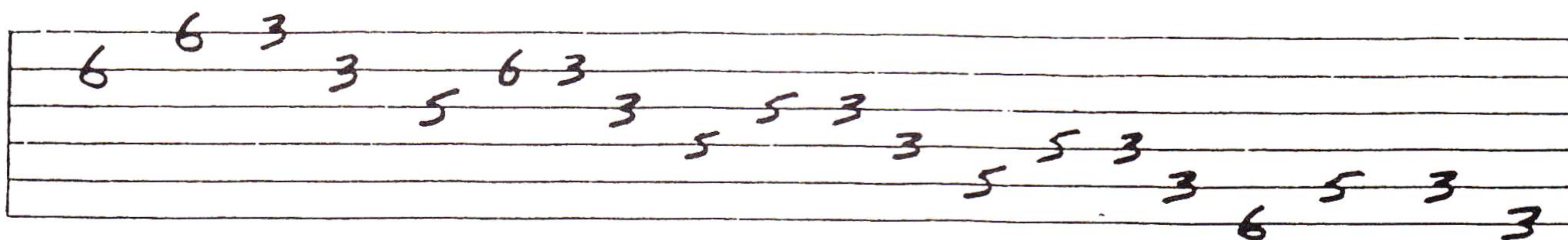
OK, here is a quick way to get those blasted pentatonic scales we've been discussing to seem a little more interesting. Are you ready? Get a pad and paper, you may want to jot this down so you don't forget it. Three simple words: "Use your imagination!"

Alright, so the third word wasn't simple, but you got the idea. Make yourself play the scale in ways you don't normally do it. Skip strings, start in the middle, use all hammer-ons, pick every note, don't use your pick at all! The important thing here is to break away from the pattern itself, and to expand your thinking more towards the melody and notes you hear in your head, and away from the physical entrapments of the pattern.

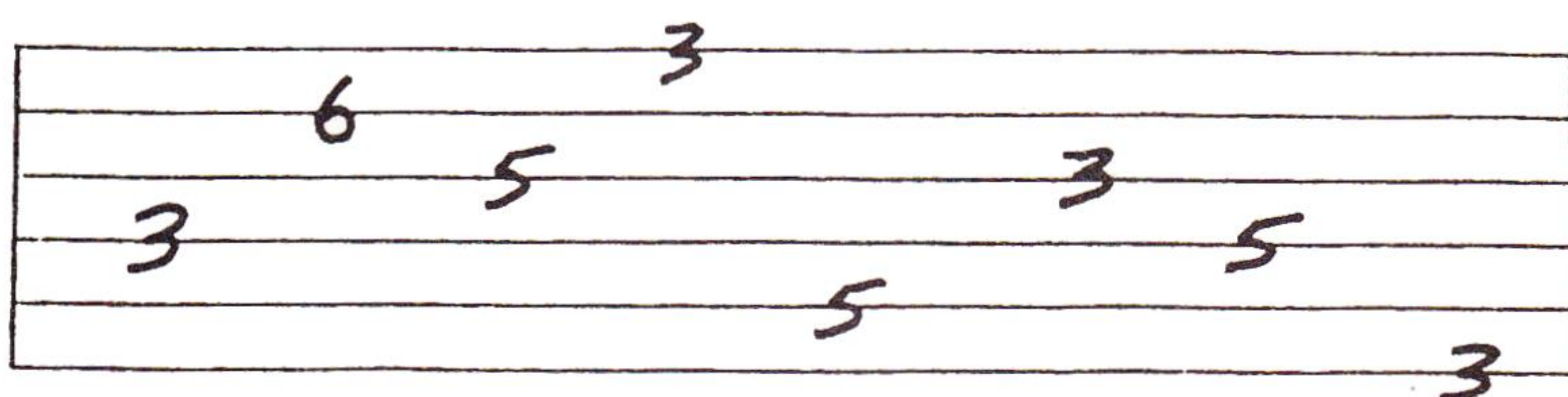
To get you started, I've included two examples of non-normal ways to access the notes of this particular scale. When you get these down, come up with your own variations.

'Til next time: Don't forget to eat your lima beans and okra--as this increases your arpeggio speed! HM

Ex. 1



Ex. 2



Licks & Tricks

By Jeff Scheetz

BELIEVER

Features:

Live European Footage, Live Cornerstone Footage, Believer, a preview of their upcoming DIMENSIONS album and for some odd reason - tours of bathrooms around the world.



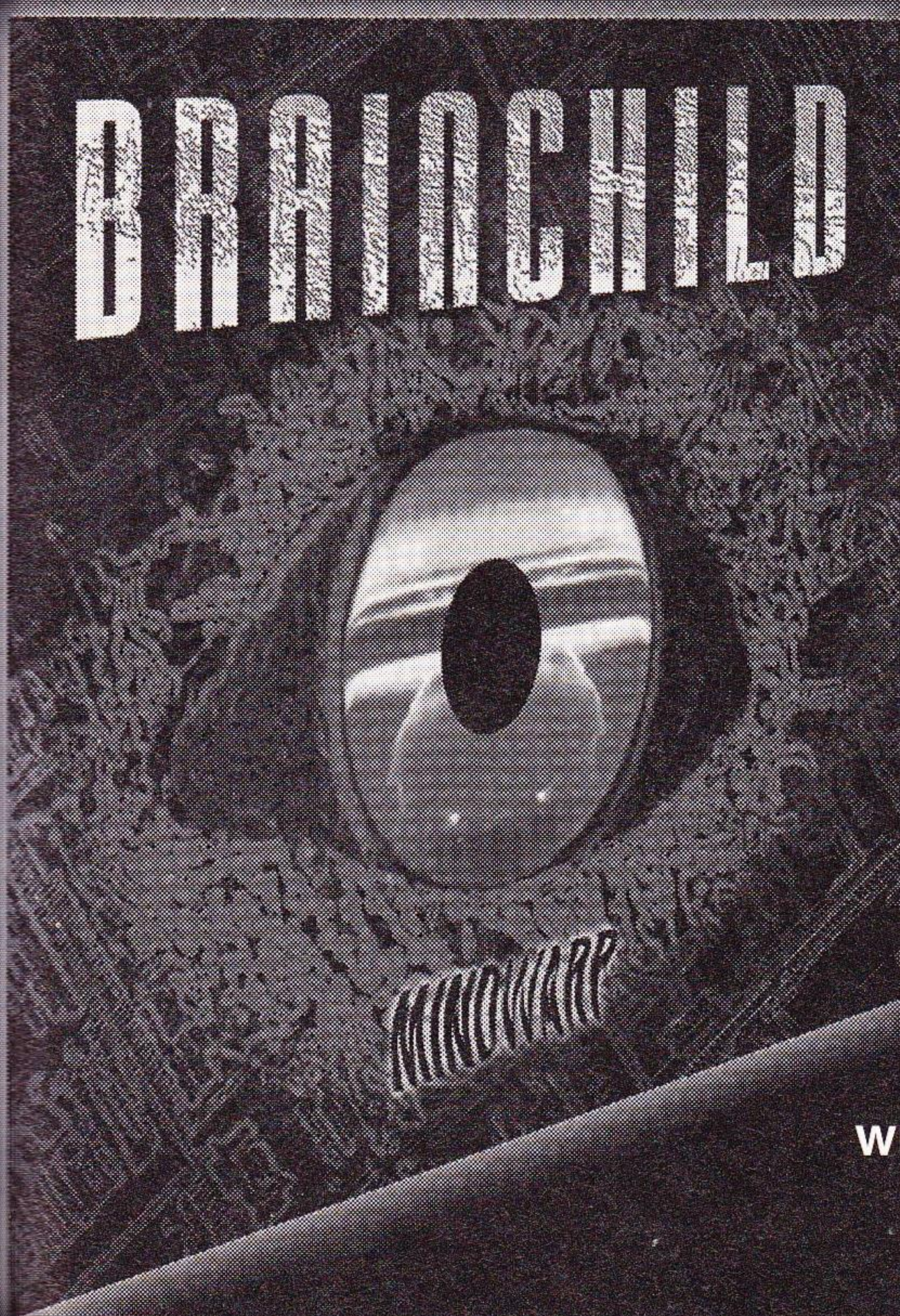
Only Available
through mail order!
Send \$14.98 to:
Believer Home Video
c/o R.E.X. MUSIC
P.O. Box 25269
Nashville, TN 37202
(\$14.98 includes S/H. Please
allow 4-6 weeks for deliver.)

H O M E V I D E O

Coming in March
DIMENSIONS
The new
Believer Album

BRAINCHILD

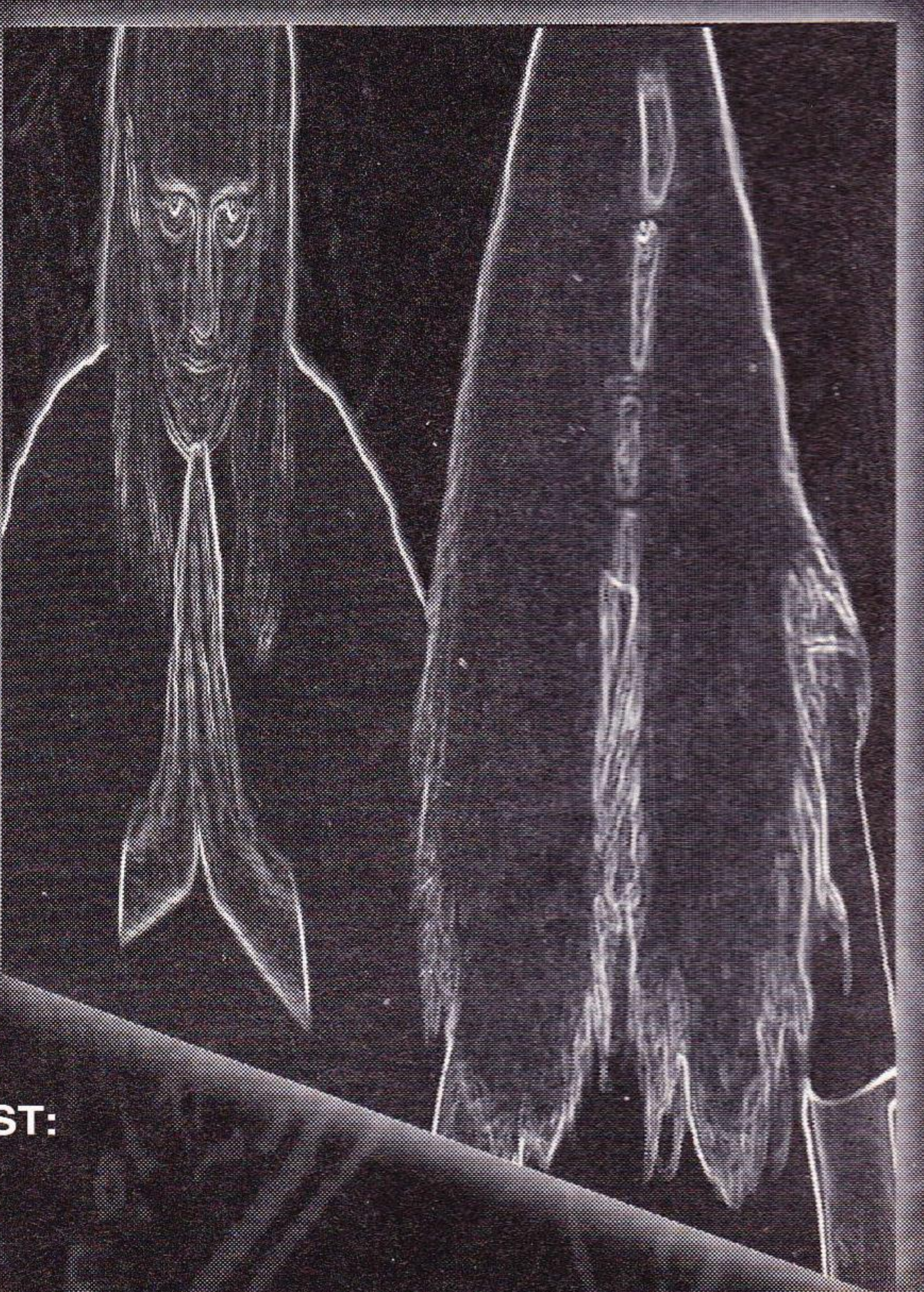
USHERS IN A NEW ERA OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



DEBUT ALBUM
MINDWARP
SCOTT ALBERT
(CIRCLE OF DUST)
DOUG MANN
(HEAVY METAL PRODUCER TYPE)

INDUSTRIAL MEETS METAL
THE PERFECT COLLISION

SCRAPE UP THE DIRT
ON THE LATEST RELEASES
BEFORE THEY HIT THE STREET!
WRITE TO GET ON THE MAILING LIST:



P.O. BOX 25269 • NASHVILLE, TN 37202

Pastor Bob



Alex felt a sick feeling in his stomach as he drove past Friends Neighborhood Church. "Friends," he thought, "what a joke!" His foot pushed down on the accelerator. He couldn't wait to get out of the area! As he looked in his rear-view mirror, he saw a cop car just turning the corner. He hoped they hadn't seen him, especially with all that beer in the car! And then there was that little matter of probation...

Those stupid "do gooders." Why hadn't they just left him alone in the first place! He cursed them out loud as he reached over and turned up the stereo. Music--especially loud music--had a way of soothing him and helped him forget--and he did want to forget! But the memories just kept coming back.

Alex remembered that day at the mall. He was hangin' with his buddies--you know, checking out the "righteous babes." He remembered how embarrassed he was when one of them turned around and had a full beard! "Oops, sorry man," he had said. They both had a good laugh. He couldn't believe how nice this guy was. He came over and sat down beside them. He wasn't even mad! "My name is Mike," he said, "what's yours?" He was just a couple years older than Alex and his friends. As they talked, they realized they liked the same style of music. That explained the long hair! Mike invited them out to his car to listen to some tunes.

Deliverance...Tourniquet...Die Happy...Vengeance. Alex hadn't heard of any of these bands. But when Mike cranked up the stereo, he loved them right away. "Dude, why haven't I ever heard of these bands before?" Mike's eyes sparkled, as if he had just been asked the \$10,000 question on Jeopardy. "They're Christian bands," he said, "Cool, huh?" As he looked at the guys, they were visibly stunned!

Alex remembered the rest of that day very well. He remembered talking about the lyrics of some of the songs, and feeling so good about just being there with Mike and excited about their new friendship! Alex and Mike talked long after his friends had gone home, and remembered how surprised they both were when they realized it was two in the morning!

He also remembered going to church with Mike the next day. Mike had some cool friends--all of them into "Christian Rock." He was so impressed! They invited him to go out with them after church. In fact, he spent most of his time with Mike and his friends during the week. He even went to a "Christian Rock" concert with them on the weekend.

Alex was excited about his "new life" and his new friends. His old friends kept calling him, but he told them he couldn't hang with them. Mike had suggested that they were a bad influence, and he shouldn't spend much time with them, so he didn't. Mike, or one of the guys from church, called him every single day. They seemed so concerned. None of his other friends had ever been so caring!

Then there was the campfire. The youth group at church had been talking about it and planning it for weeks. Mike had taped the flyer on his mirror: "CATCH A SPARK OF THE SPIRIT! Join the Friends Neighborhood Church for a CAMPFIRE! Singing, testimonies & Food." He remembered everyone being so nice to him that night. As the singing and the testimonies ran on into the night, he remembered how uncomfortable he began to feel as people kept looking at him and smiling. The group was singing, "Come unto Jesus, give Him your life today. Come unto Jesus, let Him show you the way..."

Then Jake, the youth pastor began to speak. "There is someone here who has never received Jesus Christ into their heart. If you died today, you wouldn't go to Heaven with the rest of us! You need to accept the Lord tonight. As we sing this song one more time, I'd like you to stand up. I want to lead you in the sinner's prayer and welcome you into God's family!" As the group began to sing the song again, Alex felt all eyes on him. He knew Pastor Jake was talking about him. He realized that he had never formally asked Jesus Christ into his heart. But he did want to

go to Heaven when he died--especially with all of his new friends. So, he stood up. Everyone was excited. They even clapped their hands! Pastor Jake led him in the sinner's prayer, and asked God to save him. Afterward, everyone gathered around Alex. They hugged him and shook his hand and welcomed him into The Kingdom.

As Alex lay in bed that night, he felt so good! He had the best friends in the world. He couldn't help but remember how nice everyone had been to him and how much love and excitement he had felt. As he fell asleep, he thanked God for saving him, and for bringing him to Friends Neighborhood Church.

The next Sunday, he felt a little uncomfortable when the youth pastor asked him to share his testimony in the morning service. "It's a blessing! And just think of the encouragement it will be to others who hear you! Just talk about how bad your life was before you came to Friends and found Jesus Christ."

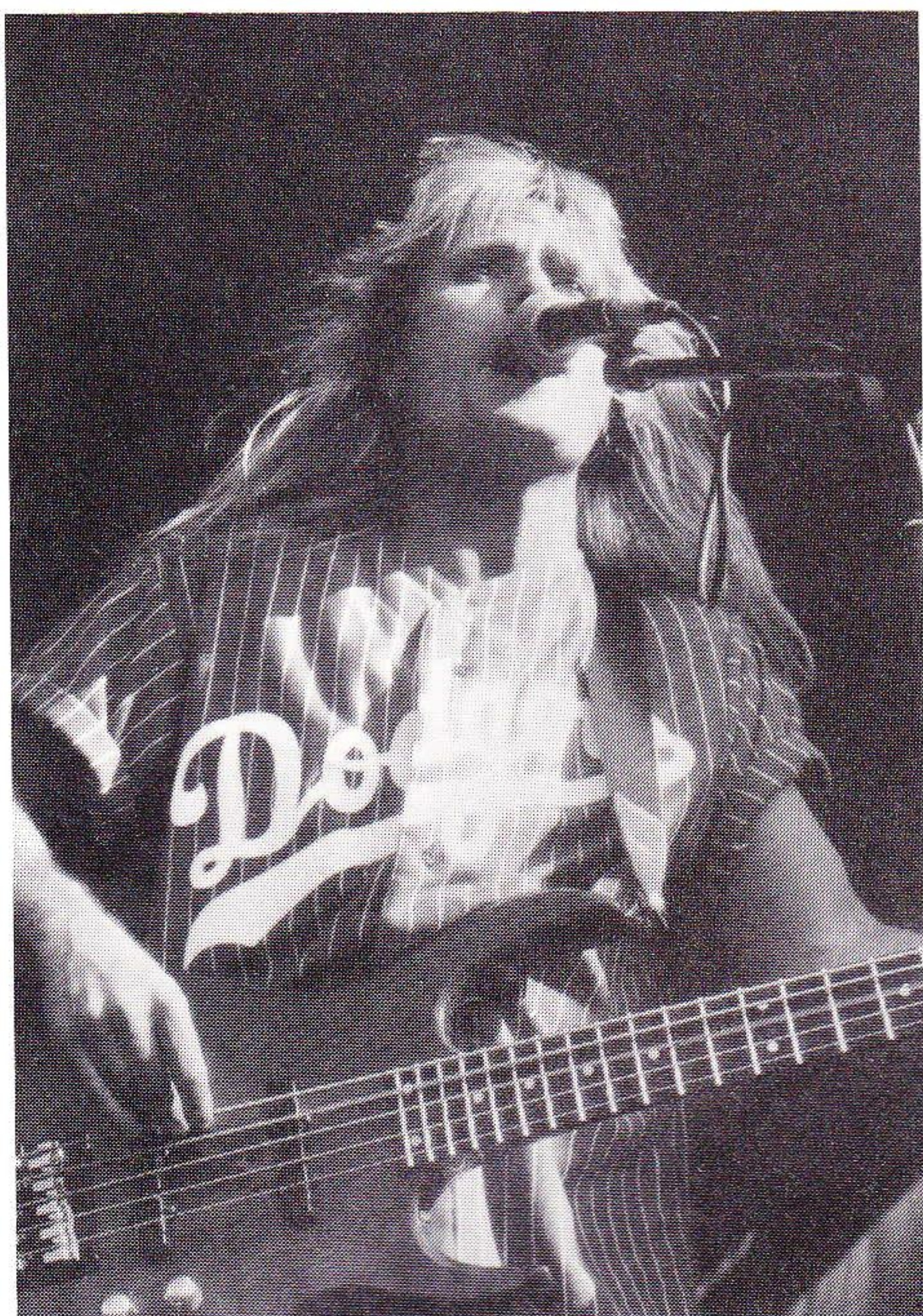
Alex remembered all the old ladies gathering around him after church and welcoming him into the family. Then there was Mr. Canady, the head of the Outreach Committee. He handed Alex a brand new Bible with his name printed on the cover. Inside it read, "From your friends at Friends." That was the last happy day Alex could remember.

The next week was a little lonely. The guys at the church had stopped calling. Even Mike seemed to be too busy every time he called him. At the youth group the next week, there was a new face. Mike confided in him: "His name is Dana. He's not saved yet, but we're all praying for him and trying to be his friend." Those words stung deeply as Alex realized his situation. "...trying to be his friend." Is that what the youth group had done to him? Tried to be his friend--just to get him saved? He almost felt like warning Dana about the group's "agenda," but still felt a little overwhelmed!

As the days and weeks rolled on, Alex found himself getting more and more lonely. He tried to pray, but it didn't seem like God was listening, either. He continued to go to the youth group.

Pastor Jake's voice grew quiet as he opened his Bible. The group was getting larger. Dana was a Christian now. He had been added to the collection. "Turn to Matthew 25. I'll begin reading with verse 31." Everyone quickly grabbed their bibles and turned to the appropriate scriptures. As Alex fumbled through his Bible, he realized that the only time he ever read it was in youth group. He didn't seem to be getting anything out of it!

Pastor Jake started to read..."When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the



(Photo by Steve Craig)

What's up? Well, I don't know about y'all, but I've been too busy lately! Face it, all you musos: It's all or nothing in this business and lately it has been all! (all of what, I still don't know) But now that I've slipped my cleverly veiled excuses by you, I suppose we should break out the wayback machine and see how our friends in Tortured Virtue are doing (Help! Mr. Wizard!). It seems our friends had no sooner headed back home with a happy handful of freshly mastered cassettes of their dynamic debut album, when who should call, but dear old Uncle Jake!

"Hey Boys! Don't forget that we all gotta go back to Tweezeville in two weeks for your record release party! It will be a shindig that you've never seen the likes of!"

"But Sal," mumbled a confused Jimmy, "We haven't even seen the record cover yet and..."

"Don't worry about that, Jimbo! We've got it all covered. I've got Bobby Floodpants making you boys a great cover. Trust me, you'll love it...and don't forget that Burt Weaselman, the agent of agents, will be there at the release party. I just got off the phone with him! He's already lining you boys up with a World Tour! I've got fourteen radio stations that can't wait to start playing your record and..." Jimmy sat there in amazement as Uncle Jake unreeled the master plans that would eventually lead to Tortured Virtue's worldwide domination. His concerns about the album cover quickly vanished as Uncle Jake told him that initial sales expectations were the highest that he had ever seen for a band of their genre (Is this getting too obvious?).

Guess what? Two weeks later we find our friends in the banquet room of a nice restaurant in Tweezeville, decked out in their toughest rock duds and nervously sampling a plate of appetizers as they watched one industry bigwig after another walk in and greet

INSIDE/OUT

By DAVID BACH

one another. "Look Ace!" whispered Max nervously. "There's Danny Bob Kingpin, the head of Birdseed Records! I can't believe all these heavy cats have come to our release party!"

After shaking many hands and taking a few pictures, the guys were ushered by Uncle Jake into the back room for a quick meeting with the illustrious Burt Weaselman, who quickly gushed, "Hey Boys! I gotta tell ya, good things are in store for Tortured Virtue. I've got guys in 26 cities who can't wait for you to start touring! The sky's the limit, I tell ya and..." None of the guys had even noticed the small easel in the main banquet room that had a mocked up flat of T.V.'s record cover. It was merely a black cover showing an anatomical cross section of someone's stomach (like in your high school biology book) that had the pancreas highlighted in red. The title merely said, "Tortured Virtue - Pancreatic Man" and there was a large white cross in the right hand corner and...

Is this too ridiculous to be true? Guess again. Our friends have committed three cardinal errors in the midst of a seemingly excellent highlight in their careers! Number One: No matter how many groovy and hip record industry people come to your release party, it doesn't matter!!! Most of these people you may never see again! This is one of the music biz oddities--people like to go to release parties and hang out whether they like the band or not. If you ever have your own release party, invite your pals and rejoice together that you actually got to make a record! (This is as good as it gets!)

Number Two: (no pun intended) Never take every word any booking agent says literally! I'm not saying that all booking agents are liars (Most of 'em are good people!), it's just that you will find few people in Christendom whose job forces them to stretch the truth more than a booking agent. Be polite, but don't plan one gig until you have a signed contract in hand (in your hand!). This is a monster issue that we'll have to cover later.

Number Three: Tend your record cover like a protective hen from start to finish! If it can get messed up, it will! (Trust me!) Be a pain to your record company without making enemies! Believe me, after two dumb record covers, I've learned to be politely obnoxious. Am I being too harsh again? Probably! Hopefully, some of you have learned my strange sense of humor. I don't mean to come off like a negative old coot! (I'm 31...and that's old by rock standards!) I suppose I'm still trying to understand what the Lord meant when He said that we should be as wary as serpents and as harmless as doves. I know there's a balance there somewhere...

"So I saw that there is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his work, because that is his lot. For who can bring him to see what will happen after him?" (Ecclesiastes 3:22)

"Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread." (Proverbs 30:8)

"He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue." (Proverbs 28:23)

Copyright (c) 1993 David Bach HM

Pastor Bob cont'd:

angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left. Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? When did we see You a stranger and invite You in, or needing clothes and clothe You? When did we see You sick or in prison and go to visit You?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.'

"That's it!" Alex thought. "I'm outta here!" As he ran out of the church, he began to cry. "I was just a project to them. A stupid project! They never really loved me in the first place. They were just trying to win brownie points with God!"

Alex felt very alone once again. He turned his car around and raced toward the mall. Maybe some of his old friends would be hangin' out there. He needed someone to talk to...

If you need someone to talk to, remember that the Sanctuary 800 Lines are available 24 hours a day. In the U.S. and Canada, call toll free 1-800-548-5222.

For a copy of our latest newsletter containing a complete listing of Pastor Bob's teaching tapes and Bible study materials, please send a SASE to: "Pastor Bob's Column," Sanctuary Church, PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach, CA 90278-8330. HM

SIX FEET DEEP

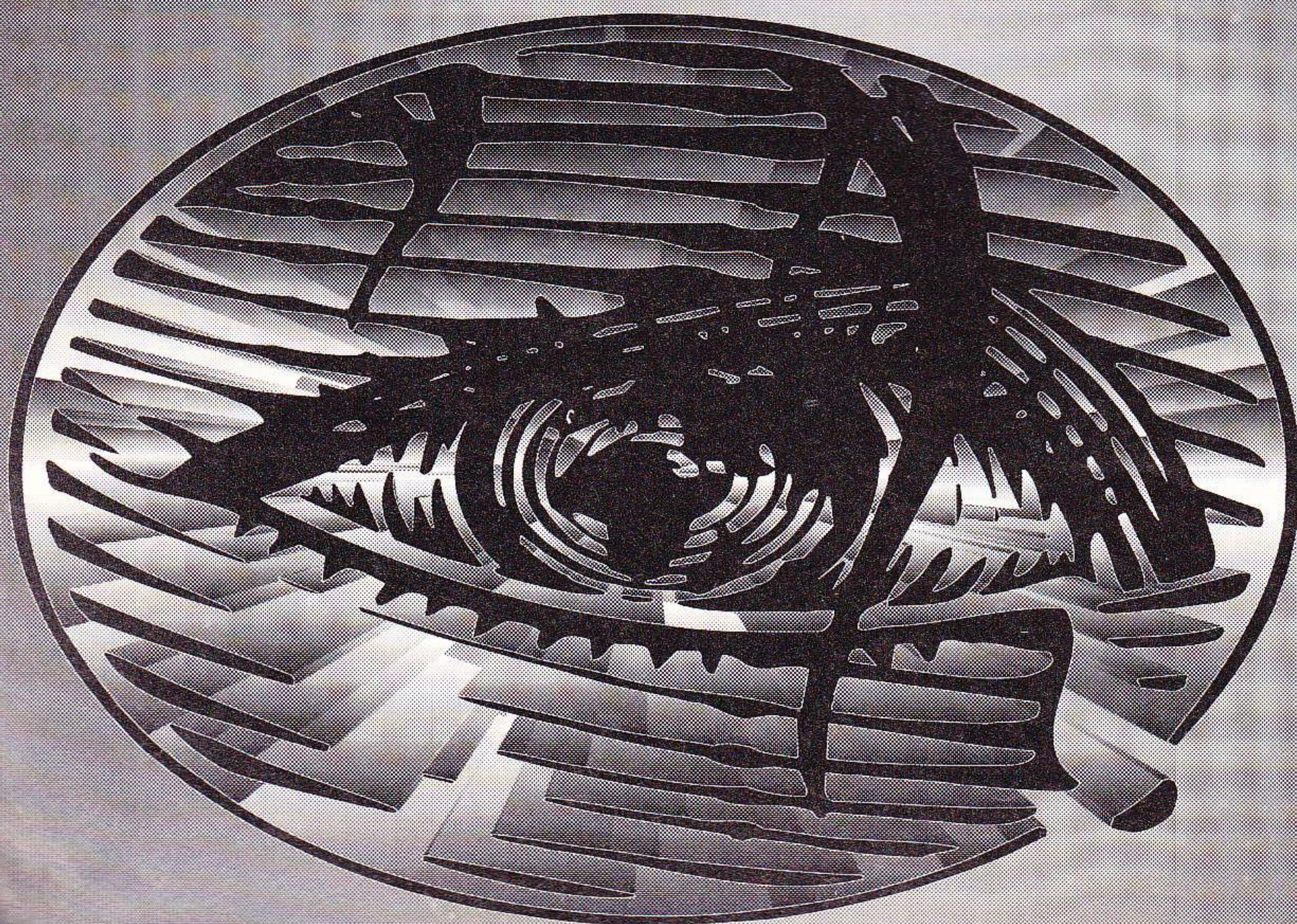
3 song ep "SELF"

available now.



For tapes, shirts, or booking info: SIX FEET DEEP, P.O. box 1733, Elyria, OH. 44035.
Tapes - 5\$; Shirts - 10\$ (blk or wht, xl only). 1\$ s/h for each item.

Weeping Prophet



Photos by:
Du Lake

"Heavy, thundering thrash...
Hefty songwriting and fast riffing abounds."
- Heaven's Metal

*Music for your mind
Music for your soul*

For booking or info call (216) 733-2658
To order demo send \$6 to:
P.O. Box 9106
Akron, OH 44305

Concert Reviews

GUARDIAN

Guardian took on a small piece of the world during a stop in Austin on November first. The show was part of the third part of their "FIRE AND LOVE" tour. Jamie Rowe's vocals and guitarist Tony Palacios' groove and blues were impressive in reproducing recording quality performances.

They hit the stage of the Mission Hills Theater with "Turnaround" and then moved into "Mystery Man," the only song performed from their "FIRST WATCH" release. The small, but enthusiastic crowd joined in on the "Whoa-ohs" of the chorus.

After "Fire and Love" and two ballads, "Forever and a Day" and "Time Stands Still," the blues took their toll when Jamie challenged Tony to a blues dual. At first Jamie growled his way to the top, while Tony gave a weak performance (as a joke). Then Tony blew everyone away when he accompanied a young woman from the audience who came on stage and almost stole the show with her smooth blues vocals. Then he did a three minute blues solo with some crunch that any Stevie Ray Vaughn fan would love. Tony then played the intro to "The Rain," where the rest of the guys joined in.

The second to the last song of this 13-song set was "Curiosity Killed the Cat," a track that will be on their next Pakaderm Records release in March. If the rest of the material sounds as solid, then it should reach number one by the summer. The release will have eight rockers, two acoustic songs and two ballads.

Not wanting to speak long, but wanting to make clear the band's commitment to Jesus, Tony gave his testimony. He said at 15 years old he smoked pot with his friends and, at the same time, knew the Bible well, because his father was a pastor. Then he said he finally realized his hypocrisy and recommitted his life to Christ. He invited members of the audience to make the same commitment if they needed to.

By the crowd's request Guardian ended with "Send a Message." Bassist David Bach and drummer Karl Ney contributed to the tight playing of the band.

Some of the concert footage will be on the "Heaven's Metal Video Magazine."

20/20 Blind, the opening band from Houston, were great in their ability to tease the audience with ballad sounding beginnings and then smoothly break into heavy rockers. Guitarists Jeff Moore and Doug Middleton carried out great double leads.

Guardian and 20/20 Blind gave the audience the power of love and music.

--Lisa Y. De La Garza



Tony Palacios—the next guitar hero?

U2

U2 is an important band. They've captured the attention of the world through the 80's much like The Beatles did in the 60's and Led Zeppelin did in the 70's. A lot of Christians look to three of these four lads as great white hopes--hoping that these professed Christians (Bono, The Edge and Larry Mullen--bassist Adam Clayton remains the loner who hasn't professed Christ) would use their art to somehow reflect God in their art and make an impact in the pagan world of rock 'n' roll. The band has done that, with worship songs like "Gloria" and "Tomorrow" (from "OCTOBER") and "40" (from "WAR") and become an example of artists expressing their faith through music.

Since their rise to mega-fame, they (frontman Bono, specifically) have done things that are hard for some believers to understand and/or endorse, like cutting loose with the "f-word" in their "RATTLE AND HUM" movie.

U2's set, part of the band's "Zoo-TV" stadium tour, was preceded by a Dublin, Ireland disc jockey spinnin' cuts out of an English car dubbed studio booth, while liberal "politically correct" (a matter of opinion) messages beamed off the scoreboard screens in the stadium. The band came out and showcased its material from "ACHTUNG BABY," starting off with "The Fly" and then roaring into "The Zoo" and then saying, "What's on t.v.?" flipping through three

televised options and then introducing "Real Thing." What struck me at this point was the gothic-ness of the enormous set, with huge antennas, small British cars on poles everywhere, and mountains of giant television screens. I'd heard that U2 was snagging portions of television broadcasts live off of a satellite or two, but I got the distinct impression that this glimpse was too close to the tidbits shown on U2's performance for the MTV Music Awards, leading me to think it was a video-taped hoax. Later on in the show Bono grabbed a phone to "call the White House," which turned into a perfect little humorous segue for the next song (another fake prop?).

By the time the band hit "Mysterious Ways" it was apparent that the band knew the material backwards, cuz it was very tight the groove was big and they were as heavy and guitar dominated as ever. I had read that the band wasn't going to be playing any material prior to the "RATTLE AND HUM" album, but was pleasantly surprised to hear the band pull out tunes from the past, like "Sunday Bloody Sunday" and "New Year's Day."

For "Bullet the Blue Sky" Bono sported a military-style outfit and led the audience in a parade-march, staccato one-two clap, parodying the military with gusto.

To further the image of "the band that's not afraid to be one with its audience," the crew had erected a narrow stage that jettisoned from the center stage out to about the 50 yard line. Bono went out onto the stage



Bono monitoring himself (Photo by Kirk J. Crippens)

several times, like when he danced with a member of the audience and greeting the belly dancer during "Mysterious Ways." The entire band came out to the very edge in the middle of the stadium for a stripped-down versions (with a tiny drum kit and acoustic guitars) of "Angel of Harlem," a Lou Reed cover tune, and then "Holiday," which Bono finished solo, turning his "ha-la-la-la-li-days" into "hallelujah, hallelujah," with his hands lifted up. This led me into a personal time of worship. Bono got down on his knees while two billows of fog over some flames flanked him left and right. The band played on instrumental section while he stayed there on his knees. Meanwhile, I worshipped God and told Him how much I love Him and how worthy of praise He is. It looked like Bono was doing the same thing.

The strains of "Where the Streets Have No Name" began and, as the bright lights came on and lit up the entire stadium from the stage, I thought, "Wow, God's glory is so much greater than this." The band gave a full night's worth of material and scripted their show well. Shortly after the goodness expressed in "Holiday" and "Streets..." Bono brought up politics and the f-word all in one sentence. He said, "I hope you find the president you're looking for, because if you

don't we're all f***ed." I was personally hoping for a better intro to "Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For," but I didn't find it. Near the end of this tune, he ad-libbed a bit and said, "You carried the cross and You took my shame, You took my shame. I still believe it, yes I do." This was followed by a cover of the classic Gospel tune "Stand By Me."

After the band left the stage before the first encore, the screens projected some random (?) audience interviews from before the show, one of which was a guy sharing about Jesus and encouraging people "to check Him out."

As usual, U2 gave its audience a full show, carrying on the hard working (yet still fun) ethic the band's come to be known for. Figuring that this might be the first time I might not sense the goodness of God during U2's performance, I was presently surprised to still share in some of that joyful worship that the band provides. Even though the whole setup smelled of an agenda, the agenda itself seemed healthy enough: expose thousands of people at once to the absurdity of television. The Christian looking for that ray of light from its fading "great white hope" may have left with the satisfied feeling that the band is still doing that "here's my faith in all its honesty,

and let's celebrate it" thang; or that person may have left with enough observations of offensive material to give up on 'em. This reviewer has a policy of always givin' his brothers the benefit of the doubt, though. I still believe.

--Doug Van Pelt HM

The Christian And Art Cont'd:

to develop his talent in the time the Master allotted him. The result? His talent was taken from him (verse 28), and he was eternally denied the Master's Presence in a place of darkness and torment (verse 30). Obey Christ, artist, or end up likewise!

This Parable is simultaneously one of the scariest and most encouraging passages in the Bible, and it should certainly be a paradigm of thought for Christian artists. We must work for Christ's Glory through the talents He has given us, that we might one day hear "well done, thou good and faithful servant," and know the Master's Joy rather than enter darkness. HM

Copyright (c) 1993 Kemper B. Crabb II.
All Rights Reserved.

In the midst
of suffering
there is

HEALING

HEALING - THE NEW ALBUM FROM ROSE
AVAILABLE IN YOUR LOCAL CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE



FRONTLINE
FmG
MUSIC GROUP

DEDICATED TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE

INTENSE
Records

GOSSIP

“Have you heard the latest rumor about Stryper? How about the ‘news’ on Deliverance? Did you hear about Bride?” I don’t know how many times I’ve heard rumors come to Heaven’s Metal about various bands. It’s sickening. Have you ever caught someone spreading gossip about you? Did it make you mad? Why? Is it wrong or something? Why is it wrong? What does the Bible say about gossip?

“A gossip betrays a confidence.” (Proverbs 11:13)
“Gossip separates close friends.” (Proverbs 16:28) “The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man’s inmost parts.” (Proverbs 18:8) “Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down.” (Proverbs 26:20)

The Bible lists gossip among “quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, slander, arrogance and disorder,” (2 Corinthians 12:20) as well as “envy, greed, murder, strife, deceit, malice, and God-haters.” (Romans 1:29-30)

The worst part about gossip, some may say, is when people are accusing someone falsely. This is a common form of gossip. One person starts a rumor and others spread it without first checking to see if it’s really true. This is slander, and the Bible speaks out very clearly on this subject as well.

God hates “a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.” (Proverbs 6:19) “Whoever spreads slander is a fool.” (Proverbs 10:18) God tells us to “not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is a slanderer...With such a man do not even eat.” (1 Corinthians 5:11) Wow! God doesn’t mince words or beat around the bush on this, does He?

Each of us has a chance to change the world by putting a halt to rumors, gossip and slander when they come our way. Just say, “Shut up!” (Maybe you can find a more polite way to say it.) The Bible shows us a standard by which to go about accusations. “Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.” (1 Timothy 5:19) This standard of two or three witnesses is something God set up a long time ago. “One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” (Deuteronomy 19:15)

The Bible even gives us instruction on what to do if slander is being spread about us. “When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly.” (1 Corinthians 4:12-13)

The other kind of gossip is when someone is talking about something you actually did do, but they are speaking behind your back. Jesus told us exactly what to do when someone does something wrong against us; and it wasn’t, “Tell all of your friends what this person did to you.” It was, “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” (Matthew 18:15-17)

Notice how Jesus said, “If he listens to you, you have won your brother over?” This means the matter is settled. Nothing more needs to be said about it. We are called to behave the way God behaves. God wants us to deal with sin by confessing and repenting to Him and those we’ve sinned against. God “blots out your transgressions” and “remembers your sins no more.” (Isaiah 43:25) If God forgets about forgiven sin, why can’t we also?

Two of the activities going on before the throne of God in Heaven are accusation and intercession. Satan is called “the accuser of the brethren, who accuses them before our God day and night.” (Revelation 12:10) “Christ Jesus is at the right hand of God interceding for us.” (Romans 8:34) We can choose which activity we are going to participate in: Satan’s, or that of Jesus. Satan accuses us; Jesus prays for us. Which will you do?

If you do not know God, let me be the first to tell you that He loves you and wants to forgive you of your sin. He won’t play games with you and talk about your sin behind your back. He will confront you with His Holy Spirit and answers your request for forgiveness by giving it to you. If you’ve seen and heard Christians spread gossip and slander, let me ask you to forgive the church. We’re still learning how to walk humbly before God and each other. Don’t worry about the church’s sin, just your own. God will settle the matter with you in love.